Daily Report

Latin America

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FBIS-LAT-91-048 *12 March 1991*

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Haiti

Government To Pursue Case Against Duvalier

FL1103205891 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Rene Preval has confirmed the government's commitment to pursue the case against Jean-Claude Duvalier. The position of the government of the Republic is reasserted in a declaration which expresses the government's willingness to pursue the penal procedures started against Jean-Claude Duvalier and his accomplices in Haiti as well as before the American, French, and Swiss courts.

The government offers the assurance that the open procedure before the Haitian court against the Duvalier faction will be conducted in strict accordance with the provisions of the penal and criminal proceeding codes as well as the code of the Constitution. These proceedings will be pursued without any recourse to a special court, thus satisfying the principles outlined by the 4 November 1950 European convention regarding the safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

This declaration is signed by Prime Minister Rene Preval.

Artibonite Violence Leaves 4 Dead, Outpost Burned

FL1203014091 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 11 Mar 91

[By Montrouis correspondent Rony Jean-Charles in the Lower Artibonite]

[Excerpts] On Saturday, 9 March, four people died, the outpost of Montrouis was turned inside out and completely burned down, and a military motorcycle was incinerated. What was the cause of such an incident? Eyewitnesses report that it started when two military men, dressed in civilian clothes and coming from Saint-Marc [city 90 km north of Port-au-Prince] on a brand new Honda motorcycle, got a flat tire.

While they were fixing the tire a young man named Phanor Merandus passed by, counting the $150 he had just received for pork he had sold. Rony Pierre, one of the soldiers in civilian clothes, asked him whose money it was. Phanor answered him roughly, saying that he had the right to count his money and to do whatever he wants with it. The soldiers were angered by this response. Dorvilus Mirabeau, the other plainclothes soldier, who had just transferred to Saint-Marc, seized Phanor. When they released him he was quite dead.

Many of the witnesses we talked to said this murder was committed with a silent .45-mm gun. People who were watching the situation leapt at the two soldiers they called zenglendos. Dorvilus Mirabeau and Rony Pierre attempted to escape, but the growing crowd frightened them and they went to take refuge at the Montrouis outpost. The people gathered in the area near the old bridge to avenge Phanor Merandus' death. Meanwhile, the two presumed zenglendos appeared with heavy weapons in their hands, trying to disperse the crowd. The people were convinced that they were dealing with military zenglendos. They became vocal.

The soldiers were irritated. Soldier Pierre Rony shot another person in the crowd, Jean Lebreton. The local people became furious, invaded the outpost, and set fire to it. According to reports, they disarmed the military zenglendos with machetes, sticks, and stones, then gave them the Pere Lebrun chain [killing them by putting burning tires around their necks]. [passage omitted]

After the incident there was a burst of gunfire in Montrouis from Saint-Marc soldiers. Many people told us that without the intervention of the justice minister, lawyer Bayard Vincent, there would have been a real Piatte [a specific massacre] in the area. Witnesses said that when the Saint-Marc soldiers arrived they were furious, and they riddled one of the civilian corpses with three bullets.

The people took advantage of this opportunity to block traffic on Sunday, 10 March, from early morning until 2200 GMT in order to negotiate between themselves and the new district commander, Ernst Lubin. They presented their claims, demanding for example that Montrouis be a commune of the Western Department, hoping to forever do away with the fact that the northern part of Montrouis is the first communal section of Saint-Marc and the southern part of Montrouis is the eighth section of Arcahaie.

The new district commander who was talking with the crowd asked for two things: Unblock the road, then come to me about whatever wrong a soldier might have done to anyone of you. At the time of this statement, eight soldiers in a jeep were very angry, but people did not stop brandishing placards reading: Down with the unscrupulous soldiers of Saint-Marc! Down with zenglendo soldiers! Montrouis must be a commune!

Father Paul, the parish priest of Montrouis, told us that he saw many of his believers in a chapel in the countryside where he went to hold mass.

We are in a spot. We are watching to see how the situation goes.

Pemex Reports Explosion at Chemical Complex

PA1103185491 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1741 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Mexico City, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) has confirmed that an explosion took place today at 0830 [1430 GMT]. The explosion was followed by a fire in the installations of the Petrochemical Complex "Pajaritos," located in Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz State.

The parastate company explained that the incident occurred in the chlorination area of the complex's piping section. So far, Pemex added, the causes and size of the explosion are still unknown.

Pemex said that upon learning about the accident, the fire fighting personnel of the various industrial complexes of the parastate company were immediately deployed to the area to put out the fire. Meanwhile, Mexican Army units cordoned off the area, as part of a security operation.

The parastate company did not mention in its reportage any loss of human lives.

Four Killed

PA1103222691 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2001 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Coatzacoalcos, 11 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Local authorities have announced that at least four people were killed and approximately 200 injured by an explosion and fire this morning at the Clorados Tres plant at the Pemex [Mexican Petroleum] "Pajaritos" petrochemical complex.

In Mexico City, Pemex confirmed the death of two people and reported that 122 people had been injured.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for Mexican Fertilizer (Fertilizantes Mexicanos), which has a plant in the vicinity of the accident site, reported that approximately 40 of its employees were wounded, but only 15 required hospitalization.

Rafael Marquet Martinez de Escobar, spokesman for Pemex in Coatzacoalcos, said that fire fighting personnel from the Cosoleacaque, Cangrejera, and Morelos industrial complexes, as well as the Lazaro Cardenas refinery helped to control the fire by 1130.

Daniel Mandujano Vera, emergency chief at the Pemex clinic in Coatzacoalcos, said that the injured employees from Pemex and Mexican Fertilizer were taken to hospitals in Nanchital, Minatitlan, and Coatzacoalcos.

Dr. Mario Oriani Gonzalez and Dr. Jose Antonio Ferrer Garcia said that approximately 100 workers were treated at Community Hospital and at the local Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS).

The fire, which began at 0830, started at an ethylene and chlorine pipeline—used for the production of vinyl chloride—from the plastic and synthetic fiber industry in La Cangrejera to the Clorados Tres plant.

Meanwhile, Manuel Avila y Avila, chief of the Red Cross personnel providing first aid, said that he saw at least two charred bodies at the site, but that four deaths had been reported.

Coatzacoalcos Mayor Carlos Brito Gomez said that the explosion, which registered a magnitude of between one and three degrees [not further explained], was heard within a radius of 200 km, in the zone where the southern Tabasco, Chiapas, and Oaxaca States converge.

Striking Teachers Surround Education Ministry

PA0703163491 Paris AFP in Spanish 0825 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Mexico City, 6 Mar (AFP)—In improvised tents installed on the capital's main streets, approximately 30,000 teachers from the states of Oaxaca, Guerrero, and Michoacan, who have been on strike for the past three days, are demanding a pay raise and democracy in the unions. Since Monday, the tents, made up of ribbons, plastic, and pieces of timber and looking like true spiderwebs, have surrounded the Ministry of Education and Trade Union of Education Workers [SNTE] buildings, whose leadership the workers have accused of being in collusion with the authorities.

The teachers, most of them from Oaxaca a state in Mexico's southeast, demand a 100-percent raise in their salaries, which they describe as "meager." "The salary of a primary school teacher is 600,000 pesos ($200) monthly. We want our salary to be twice that amount," Guillermo Villanueva, a teacher in Tlaxiaco, said.

"This entire movement is due to the injustice that we teachers have to suffer," said teacher Luisa Vicente.

The Mexico City authorities have installed portable bathrooms, very much in demand by the teachers, "a great number of whom" are suffering from diarrhea, Jorge Sanchez, a teacher in Ejutla, told AFP.

The strikers belong to the National Coordinating Board of Education Workers, a dissident faction of SNTE which, with nearly 1 million members, is Latin America's largest union.

El Salvador

Arena Reportedly Wins 43 of 84 Legislative Seats

PA1103215391 Paris AFP in Spanish 1935 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Mar (AFP)—According to the latest reports announced on television on 11 March, and after 91 percent of the vote has been counted, the ruling far right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena] has won 43 of the 84 seats in the new Salvadoran Legislative Assembly.

The runner-up is the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which, with 27 percent of the vote, won 27 seats. The leftist Democratic Convergence [CD], which received 17 percent of the vote, came in third with eight seats.

Various party sources have agreed that voter turnout was probably below 50 percent of the registered 2.2 million voters. Clandestine Radio Venceremos has stated that no elections were held in 31 of the country's 262 municipalities because they are under the control of the guerrillas.

According to estimates based on vote count certificates from the 14 departmental voting table boards, the conservative National Conciliation Party [PCN] of the traditional right won five seats and the pro-communist National Democratic Union [UDN] won a single seat.

The Central Electoral Council will start the official vote counting no earlier than Wednesday morning. Each party, however, makes its own computations based on the municipal and departmental vote count certificates.

According to those reports, the PDC, led by Former Foreign Minister Fidel Chavez Mena, led Arena in three of the four departmental capital cities in the eastern part of the country, the region most ravaged by the civil war.

PDC won the mayoralties in San Francisco Gotera, departmental capital of Morazan, and in Usulutan and La Union. Arena held control of the government in San Miguel.

The CD, the main leaders of which were political and diplomatic agents for the guerrillas until three years ago, won the mayoralties in Quezaltepeque and Ciudad Arce, two important villages in La Libertad Department, in the central part of the country.

First Results Confirm Victory

PA1203031291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0150 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The first official results of the legislative and municipal elections held in El Salvador on Sunday [10 March] have confirmed the victory of Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], the ruling conservative right-wing party.

According to preliminary figures released tonight by the Central Electoral Council and based on 10 percent of the vote counted so far, Arena has obtained 47 percent of seats in the race for the Legislative Assembly, and has won a majority of the country's mayoralties.

The Christian Democratic Party came in second with 31 percent of the vote, suggesting the party's moderate decline.

The National Conciliation Party, of the liberal right, placed third with 11.28 percent. The fourth place went to the leftist Democratic Convergence; its 8.2 percent share of the vote was more than twice what it had won in 1989.

Arena's Reaction

PA1203032291 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Mar 91 p 17

[Text] "We are the big winners," Armando Calderon Sol, who won yesterday's municipal elections in Salvador, said last night.

Calderon said that his party, Nationalist Republican Alliance [Arena], won 43 seats in the Legislative Assembly and that they still expect to win more. He added that they will retain the majority, thus guaranteeing the continuation of President Alfredo Cristiani's plans for stabilization and peace.

Calderon said that so far Arena has received more than 75 percent of the vote, while the opposition received only five percent. Arena expects to receive even more votes as the final count is approached. Calderon said that 50 percent of the people registered to vote did vote, but that the party expects this to reach 60 percent, a percentage that represents a normal trend in Latin America.

Calderon said that the low number of voters can be explained because the Salvadoran people attach more importance to presidential elections than to those for mayors or deputies. In addition, the war has psychologically affected the population.

He underlined the participation of the "radical left, which has taken an important step forward by competing in an electoral process," thus consolidating the democratic process that will lead the country to peace and progress.

Representatives of LA PRENSA GRAFICA visited the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] computations center located at the ISEP [Salvadoran Institute for Political Studies] offices. Dr. Alberto Posada [not further identified], however, declined to receive our reporters or give any information.

Reliable PDC sources have stated that the party won 10 to 12 seats in the Assembly.

Ponce: Armed Forces To Respect Election Results

PA1203023091 San Salvador Radio Cadena Horizonte in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [monitored in progress] ...General Ponce went to Centenario Park where he voted at 0915 today, 11 March, at Ballot Box No. 503. After casting his vote, the

military officer, who was accompanied by his wife, told newsmen that the results of the elections will be respected by the Armed Forces, regardless of which political party wins.

[Ponce] "As we have said publicly on repeated occasions, we will respect the will of the people expressed at the polls. It is not our concern as to the party affiliation of the representatives the Salvadoran people choose. It is not of our concern. We intend to respect and ensure respect for the people's will."

Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce said that the voter turnout at the different polling places throughout the country is a clear demonstration that the people want peace through dialogue and negotiation and reject the path of violence.

[Ponce] "Regardless of the result of the elections, the fact that the people have gone out to exercise their right to vote invalidates or leaves without justification the violent struggle of the FMLN. It demonstrates that all Salvadorans want peace through democratization, which began in our country in 1980. These elections contribute toward consolidating the democratic process in our country. We are definitely taking specific steps to achieve peace in our country, according to the process of negotiation in which the FMLN and the government are engaged."

Defense Minister Gen. Rene Emilio Ponce said that, despite the cease-fire decreed by the guerrillas, they did not carry it out responsibly, because the Armed Forces and rebels had engaged in fierce fighting in several of the country's municipalities.

[Ponce] "The FMLN, to shut down the electoral process—we have all been able to witness that it is a civic event—harassed positions of military units in Guatajiagua, Yamabal, and Sociedad in Morazan. We also had problems yesterday in the municipality of San Francisco Javier in Usulutan."

He said that these actions are not doing the FMLN any good, because they are violating the three-day truce. When asked why the Armed Forces are conducting military operations in several parts of the country, however, he said that they are part of routine Armed Forces operations.

Denies Intimidation Used

PA1203032091 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 11 Mar p 72

[Text] Leftist leader Humberto Centeno's charge that the Armed Forces intimidated voters is completely false.

The defense minister stated this on 10 March, noting that OAS observers investigated the charge and established that there had not been any coercion.

General Rene Emilio Ponce, when approached by newsmen at Centenario Park here in the capital, responded that Centeno's charge had been investigated with all due seriousness, even with the participation of the OAS observers who verified that at no moment had military units intimidated voters to vote for a specific party or not to vote for a specific party.

Fortunately, he noted, it had been others, not national authorities or spokespersons for the Armed Forces, who had denied the left-wing leader's charge. It was international delegates who are not defending interests of any kind, but who are seeing to it that everything develops amid total normalcy.

He admitted that if some uniformed soldiers were present at some polling places, it had been at the request of the Central Electoral Council to maintain order.

With regard to military participation, he said that the OAS had announced special recognition of the Armed Forces for cooperating in the elections and also for its permanent cooperation to secure peace in the country.

He added that such recognition is added to that of other sectors that have publicly voiced their support for the Army for aiding in the democratization of El Salvador, ensuring respect for citizens' rights and in general for aiding in a total return to normalcy.

Army Reports 12 Killed in Usulutan Clashes

PA1103140491 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1223 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] A Salvadoran military spokesman has reported that 10 guerrillas, one soldier, and one civilian were killed in El Salvador in battles between the Army and the rebels. This happened in spite of the truce ordered by the guerrillas for 9-11 March on the occasion of the 10 March elections. Colonel Baltasar Lopez, chief of the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa], reported that 12 persons were killed and 13 were wounded, including soldiers, rebels, and civilians, as a result of battles that took place in San Francisco Javier, Usulutan Department.

The truce called by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] to allow voters to participate in the legislative and municipal elections began on 9 March and will end at 2400 on 11 March.

The battles were confirmed by other sources, but the FMLN has not given any report on the clashes that took place in areas where the guerrillas normally operate.

There have been many clashes in recent days as the Army entered areas that the FMLN considers free territory and where the guerrillas have not allowed electoral authorities to enter.

The Coprefa chief said that there has not been any fighting or battles since the voting began at approximately 0700 on 10 March. [sentence as heard] The

Armed Forces protected the ballot boxes while the people went to vote in the strained elections. [eleeciones torcidas] [sentence as heard]

FMLN Reports 290 Army Casualties 1-9 March

PA1103164691 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1500 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The Salvadoran guerrillas today reported having inflicted 290 casualties on the Army during the first nine days of March, and they said that "the war will continue" after the three-day electoral truce concludes tonight.

Via one of its radio stations, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) stated that "war will continue after 10 March, and the negotiation process thereby will be strengthened."

The FMLN decreed a unilateral three-day military truce, which ends today, that facilitated the mobilization of Salvadorans to voting centers in areas that are not under its control.

According to unofficial figures—no official results have yet been issued—the elections were won by the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena, rightwing), while the left wing had an significant boost, and the Christian Democrats suffered yet another blow.

During the truce there were clashes with the Army, which entered areas usually occupied by the guerrillas, and according to military sources, 25 rebels and four soldiers were killed.

These sources added that 20 soldiers and five civilians were injured in clashes that took place in the country's eastern and northern areas.

The guerrillas did not report on casualties among its ranks.

Radio Farabundo Marti said that four officers were among the casualties sustained by the Army from 1 to 9 March, but did not specify whether they were killed or wounded.

It also announced the release of four of six soldiers who were taken prisoners by the Army [as published] during the same period.

The FMLN added that it seized from the Army 30 rifles, two 90-mm cannons, two M-60 machine guns, and three radios. It also reported destroying 24 power pylons.

11 Mar Clashes Noted

PA1203042191

[Editorial report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 2015 GMT on 11 Mar reports that "in Usulutan, a woman was killed and two minors were seriously injured by 81-mm mortar shells fired by the Armed Forces in La Bomba and Morofalda, San Miguel Department."

In addition, in San Jose Guayabal, the Bracamonte Battalion reportedly clashed with the rebels, who inflicted eight casualties in Los Lirios and La Cruz. Also, "the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, seized two M-16 rifles and four knapsacks."

The station goes on to say that "a clash occurred with the Leon and Arce Battalions yesterday in Potrerillos, San Miguel" and that the "enemy" sustained two casualties. Guerrillas inflicted six casualties on Atlacatl Batallion troops in Chalatenango.

Furthermore, the station reports that "Army troops have invaded the territory under our control in an attempt to intimidate the people into not going to San Francisco Gotera to vote. A helicopter supplying the enemy was damaged in Cacaopera, Morazan, in the afternoon of 9 March."

(Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador at 0056 GMT on 11 March reports that "clashes occurred with Atlacatl Battalion troops who entered zones under our control in Chalatenango Department, El Tablon, Morazan Department, and Anamoros and Lislique, La Union Department. The antidemocratic Armed Forces have been shelling intensely with 105-mm howitzers." The station announcer says that "these clashes have taken place because of the high command's stubbornness about the cease-fire at a time when the people wanted to cast their votes."

Finally, San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish on 11 March on page 16 reports that "two Atlacatl Battalion members were killed in armed clashes between FMLN and soldiers in Cerro El Gallinero, five km from Chalatenango." The newspaper adds that "there were also clashes in Cerro Las Mesas on 9 March but that no casualties were reported by either of the two fighting forces."

Elections Not Held in Several Municipalities

PA1203001391 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Despite the intense military effort exerted by the High Command in territories under our control, in many municipalities in zones controlled by the FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] elections have not been held. This serves as evidence of dual authority, the presence of the National Army for Democracy [ENDP] in these zones, and the inability of the Armed Forces to control all national territory, as they have sought to do over the past few days. For instance, General [Rene Emilio] Ponce had said that elections would be held in Perquin, Morazan, but at the last minute it was decided that elections would not be held

there because they were unable to take control of the zone, which has been under our control.

This also serves as evidence of not only the dual authority of the FMLN but also the lack of power on the part of the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government. The government has carried out intense propaganda throughout these days, saying that it has territorial control and has deployed elite battalions to areas under our control for propaganda purposes and so that the international observers would tell the world that the government is in control. Arena has not been able to demonstrate this, however. Therefore, in several municipalities, elections were not held.

For instance, in Cabanas, there are two municipalities where elections were not held—Jutiapa and Higuera. Also, in Chalatenango, elections have not been held in the following municipalities: San Antonio Los Ranchos, San Jose Cancasque, San Jose Las Flores, Nueva Trinidad, Arcatao, Ojos de Agua, Carrizal, Las Vueltas, San Isidro Labrador, San Luis del Carmen, and San Fernando. We are awaiting confirmation that elections were not held in Dulce Nombre de Maria in Chalatenango Department.

We have learned that in Tejutepeque, Cabanas, Army troops have been reinforced with other soldiers. The Army is thus further militarizing areas in these territories that were already militarized.

We have more information from the Cinquera zone in Cabanas Department. It has been confirmed that in Jutiapa and Cinquera there were no elections and that the voting was transferred to Ilobasco. It has also been reported that there is an ongoing military operation taking place in that zone. Long-range reconnaissance patrols, PRAL, are staging ambushes along routes used by the civilian population. Yesterday [9 March] they opened fire on the inhabitants of Sopapayo as they were crossing near the village of La Escopeta. This is the situation in Cinquera, Cabanas Department. PRAL forces are staging an operation along a route where the people cross and are laying ambushes.

31 Municipalities Not Voting

PA1203001091 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] We have counted 31 municipalities where elections have not been held. Two in Cabanas Department, 11 in Chalatenargo Department, 9 in Morazan Department, two in San Miguel Department, three in La Paz Department, and four in Usulutar Department; this comes to a total of 31 municipalities where balloting did not take place. We reiterate that this demonstrates the existence of dual authority in the country.

FMLN Comments on Elections, Latest Clashes

PA1203002891 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Before the elections, and taking advantage of the cease-fire ordered by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], the Armed Forces began an offensive in areas under our control in a effort to portray an image of power. The Armed Forces have lost their control over two-thirds of El Salvador, however.

In zones where the opposition enjoys considerable support, bombings and straffing, along with mass arrests, were aimed at intimidating voters. The Armed Forces did everything within their means to try to make the FMLN break the unilateral truce. They tried to start the fighting in the country's rural or strife-torn areas to frighten the voters. All of this falls within a campaign of terror to favor Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance].

As part of the plan to commit fraud, the Armed Forces decided to hold elections in several municipalities in zones that are under the FMLN control, where there are no municipalities and electoral boards. As we recall, General Rene Emilio Ponce, defense and public security minister, and Colonel Oscar Alberto Leon Linares, commander of Military Detachment No. 4, had announced that there would be elections in municipalities located north of Torola River, in our heroic Morazan Department, in the country's eastern region. To be sure, they were going to do it by taking advantage of the cease-fire truce ordered by the FMLN.

As we saw, Ponce's dreams of hiding the FMLN's territorial control clashed with reality. They had to accept that the dual authority cannot be questioned by the fleeting and temporary presence of several battalions and indiscriminate bombing on civilians. Ponce and Leon Linares had to swallow their arrogance since their ineptness became evident. The reality is that they were unable to hold fraudulent elections in areas under the FMLN control, namely, Perquin, Jocoaitique, Torola, San Fernando, Arambala, Joateca, Meanguera, Villa del Rosario, and Sensembra in Morazan Department; in San Augustin, San Francisco Javier, Jucuaran, and California in Usulutan Department; and in Nuevo Eden de San Juan, and San Antonio del Mosco in San Miguel Department.

We also want to report that the cease-fire was observed in Morazan despite the provocations by the Armed Forces, which invaded the areas under our control. The dual territorial power has become very clear in this northeastern zone and in Chalatenango and in other FMLN areas. This means that our territorial power has been clearly reaffirmed. The people of the world can fully see this. We believe this ought to make the government and the top command realize they are stubbornly hampering the negotiations, since the negotiations for a cease-fire to reach peace are in fact hampered by the Armed Forces, which refuses to accept the reality embodied in the FMLN's territorial power.

Chalatenango Department's joint command front has reported that elections were not held in 13 towns of that department, including the towns of Arcatao, San Jose las Flores, San Antonio Los Ranchos, Las Vueltas, Ojo de Agua, Carrizal, San Isidro Labrador, San Francisco Morazan, San Jose Cancasque, Nueva Trinidad, and San Fernando. No elections were held in any of those towns despite the tremendous effort and offensive carried out by the government and the Armed Forces to guarantee the elections in this department.

Here is a last-minute report on the latest incidents that have taken place in different parts of the country: The FMLN ordered a unilateral truce before, during, and after the elections. It decided that our forces would remain on their bases. Yesterday and early this morning, the Armed Forces conducted offensive operations in areas under our control. For that reason, fighting took place in Chalatenango Department against the Atlacatl Battalion, as well as in other northeastern zones. Clashes were reported in San Jose, Guayabal and elsewhere in the country. This situation does not (?mean) that the FMLN plans to boycott the elections, as Gen. Ponce has said. That is not the FMLN's will, but the clashes that took place were provoked by the Armed Forces. The offensive is part of the pressure exerted on territories under our control. The goal is to prevent the movement of voters to the capitals of departments or the cities where the so-called elections in exile [votaciones en el exilio] have been moved. This is the report we want to give regarding the fighting that has taken place in different parts of the country. Our forces are observing the truce; they have observed the truce and will continue to observe it, because that is a commitment the FMLN made with the opposition parties and the entire country.

As it happened in Morazan, San Miguel, Usulutan, and Chalatenango Departments, elections were not held in Jutuiapa and Higueras in Cabanas Department, as these towns are under FMLN control. In addition, the Central Electoral Council [CCE] has said that it was impossible to hold elections in three towns of La Paz Department, but it did not give the names of the towns. In all, the FMLN ban on the elections in areas under its control was enforced in 31 towns. It is worth noting the FMLN allowed the people living in those areas to go and vote in the areas where the government functions. To achieve that goal, it ordered a unilateral three-day truce. As proof that the people living in areas under our control were able to move freely, 2,400 persons from northern Morazan went this morning to San Francisco Gotera to vote, according to Secundino Amaya, a resident of the town of (Segundo Monte).

Moreover, in a frustrated attempt to guarantee elections in Morazan, Col. Leon Linareas flew the ballot boxes at the last moment to the town of Corinto. In doing this, he contradicted remarks by Col. Mauricio Ernesto Vargas, deputy chief of staff, who had said that the Air Force would not commit itself to providing security for the CCE and the transportation of ballot boxes.

FMLN Reports 'Preliminary Results' From Areas

PA1203033191 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0047 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Here are the preliminary results of the vote count from voting places 2118, 2122, and 2155 in Santa Ana Department. According to the figures, Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] is leading, the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] is in second place, and the Democratic Convergence [CD] is third. Computing the votes received by Arena and the opposition parties, it turns out that the opposition beat Arena in these three voting areas in the election for mayors and deputies. In other words, the opposition parties, such as the PDC, CD, and the National Democratic Unity, received more votes than Arena did. If this trend continues, Arena will very likely lose the majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

In addition, at some voting places in San Salvador—after the first vote count was completed—the CD is in second place, PDC is third, and in some other places Arena is first, the PDC is second, and the CD is third. We will await further results.

We reiterate, however, that if the trend at these voting places in Santa Ana, San Salvador, and Ilopango, which we have just received, continues, Arena might not win the majority of seats in the Legislative Assembly.

FMLN Leader Denounces Election Irregularities

PA1103153791 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1216 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Bonn, FRG, 11 Mar (EFE)—Orlando Orellana, director of the Secretariat for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), denounced today in Bonn several irregularities in the elections held yesterday in El Salvador.

Orellana, who is visiting Germany as part of a tour of various European countries to report on the human rights situation in his country, told EFE that the anomalies occurred in numerous regions of El Salvador during the day of the elections.

Orellana stated that, in several areas of the country, members of the paramilitary "Civil Defense" group intimidated voters with acts of violence and death threats.

For Orellana, the irregularities have been promoted by the Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena), currently in power and virtual winner of yesterday's elections, in order to secure two- thirds of the votes [in the Legislative Assembly] and block the negotiations with the opposition.

During the course of the elections, soldiers and paramilitary groups intimidated civilians and nullified some votes using several means, such as spilling ink on the ballots.

Orellana said that there were no ballots for some opposition political parties and expressed that Arena resorted, with this behavior, to a practice of openly imposing its will, typical of the Salvadoran dictatorships of the last 60 years.

"In my opinion, this shows the desperation of the government party for securing power, with arrogant actions that not even Presidents Napoleon Duarte and Alfredo Cristiani displayed during their legislatures," Orellana concluded.

'Excessive Militarization' of Elections Noted

PA1203015691 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today's elections are the best mirror to reflect the dual authority that exists in El Salvador. Although the Arena [Nationalist Republican Alliance] government has attempted to dismiss the extent of the territorial control of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] throughout the country, it was proven evident when the government was unable to hold elections in municipalities in areas under our control. The High Command had resigned itself beforehand not to hold elections in those places, because of its political and military inability to maintain its presence. The principal characteristic of the current elections has been the excessive militarization that has accompanied them. They have been elections with military boots. The attitude of the FMLN, which declared a unilateral truce, contrasts radically with that of the government and the Armed Forces, which have not only been incapable of a corresponding gesture, which could have permitted a better climate for the people to express themselves politically, but have also taken advantage of the truce to launch large military operations intended to intimidate the electoral opposition, particularly in those areas where they have strong support. Although these are but more elections during wartime, the FMLN has sought to favor the participation of the people with their votes by declaring a three-day truce, but Arena and the military have sought to block the people's participation. Nonetheless, the people and the opposition have not been intimidated and are waging an important political battle. After 10 March, the war will continue and a negotiated solution will be strengthened, because with their votes the people will attain greater political power, with which we will achieve the great objectives of demilitarizing society, putting an end to the impunity of the soldiers, and building a true democracy amid justice and peace.

CD Leader on Elections, Impact on Party

PA1103231791 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0253 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Interview with Democratic Convergence (CD) leader Ruben Zamorra by (Mario Marquez) in San Salvador—live]

[Text] [(Marquez)] Hello, YSU friends. On this Sunday, 10 March 1991, the Democratic Convergence [CD] has definitely become the third political force in the country. Here is CD leader Ruben Zamorra with a few comments on the elections. Good evening, doctor. Go ahead.

[Zamorra] Good evening. It is a great pleasure to be at this radio station, which is listened to by so many Salvadorans. Based on the information we have received at our center, the election results have been very satisfactory for us. The CD's goal was to become the undisputed third political force in the country. We have reached our goal. Furthermore, I believe that we are quickly becoming the second political force in the San Salvador Department. All this clearly shows how the CD is rising in the country's political life.

[(Marquez)] Do you believe the CD's returns would have been better if the elections had started at 0700 sharp and if more people had voted?

[Zamorra] Undoubtably. This election has been characterized by the many errors that were made by the Central Electoral Council [CCE]. I believe these errors should prompt the country to carefully reconsider the efficiency of the CCE in carrying out a mission that is of such importance. There is no doubt that the CCE's ineffiency and the obstacles it placed in the path of the elections have been a factor that has deterred many people from participating in the electoral process. Actually, many people in El Salvador do not believe that the electoral process is legitimate. On top of that, all of these inefficiencies—for example, the voting ballots were not even printed correctly—elicits an even greater lack of credibility on the electoral process.

[(Marquez)] According to the information that you have received up to now, is there going to be a balanced Legislative Assembly or will it be dominated by one of the contending parties?

[Zamorra] The data we have does not allow us to know if the opposition will have the majority or if Arena will maintain its majority in congress. I would say, however, that if one of the parties attains a majority it will only be by one or two deputies. This means that we will have a Legislative Assembly that will discuss issues at greater length and one that will take the legislative process much more seriously.

[(Marquez)] Regarding the role of OAS and other observers at these elections, what are your comments?

[Zamorra] Well, we believe that the OAS observers who have been here for many days now and the other observers—for example the Chicano and Hispanic observers of the southern United States who have also been here for many days, and other groups such as Freedom House, National Intitute for Democracy [previous six words in English], etc.—have played a very important role, not only because they have denounced anomalies in the electoral process and have avoided further anomalies from taking place, but also because

they have decreased—even if it has been gradually—the people's apprehension and fear about participating in the political process. Many, many people are afraid because 70,000 Salvadorans have been murdered for political reasons. Thus, the observers have been a very important instrument in the struggle against the great enemies of democratic participation in our country: fear and those who increase fear among the population.

[(Marquez)] Can it be said that the result of Sunday's election is a victory for the CD?

[Zamora] Without any doubt. I believe that it was a great victory. The CD is now undoubtedly one of the three main forces. The fact that we won a second place in the capital and in the most important department—and I believe that this will also hold true in La Libertad Department—clearly shows that having moved up from 3.8 percent of the vote to.... [changes thought] I do not know what percentage we will have won when the final count is revealed, but there are forecasts that give us 15-16 percent of the vote, which means that we, in two years, would have increased four-fold the percentage of the votes we garnered. This is truly a great accomplishment. I will take advantage of this opportunity to give my most heartfelt thanks to the thousands of CD activists who made this great victory possible.

[(Marquez)] How could a debate in Congress facilitate the peace negotiations in the country?

[Zamora] As we said during our campaign, we must wait and see who will control a majority in Congress. At any rate, I believe that the presence of a considerable number of deputies from the opposition groups will contribute toward turning the Legislative Assembly into a genuine forum for discussing and advancing the negotiations process.

[(Marquez)] What can you say to the Salvadoran people now that the expectation period is over and that the electoral results are coming out?

[Zamora] First, to all those who voted for CD, I want to give them a million thanks for trusting us. We feel a great responsibility and will do everything we can to do dignified work. Second, I would like to say to all those who voted that you are fulfilling a duty regardless of what party you voted for.

I would also like to speak to the other Salvadorans who did not cast their votes. Many did not vote because of the CCE inefficiencies, because their names did not appear on the list, or because the ballot boxes did not arrive in time. Many others did not vote because they do not believe in or trust the electoral process. I want to tell these people to open their eyes to reality and see how we have managed to advance a little more in this process. I want to tell them to have a little more trust in the possibilities of advancing toward peace through political means. Therefore, all Salvadorans must vote the next time around. Thank you very much.

Government-FMLN-FDR Accord Expected by Jul

PA1203014091 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 11 Mar 91 p 9

[Text] The signing of specific peace agreements between the government and the FMLN-FDR [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front] is expected in July at the latest, sources close to the talks between the two commissions have disclosed. These sources asked not to be identified.

According to the sources, the rebels have accepted enough conditions to ascertain that an agreement on demobilization can be reached.

The same sources added that the three-day "unilateral truce" of the FMLN-FDR for the elections "is a tacit recognition of the legality of the process and of the fact that the country is on the way to attaining peace."

A ranking military chief, who also asked not to be identified, has disclosed that the government and the FMLN-FDR terrorists will sign an important document later in this month to end to the subversive aggression.

According to the sources, the integration of the rebels into the democratic process is the only path they have for an earnest solution because they are isolated and lack the international support they had when the Soviets sought world hegemony.

Radio Venceremos Reports Feb Rebel, Army Clashes

PA1103155091

[Editorial Report] (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 2 March carries a 14-minute summary of actions carried out in February. The report says that "FMLN units caused approximately 489 casualties, including six officers and five NCO's," and seized "32 M-16 rifles, four M-60 machineguns, four M-79 grenade launchers with seven grenades, one 90-mm gun, two PRC-77 communications radios, 26 kits, 15 small arms, and 33 knapsacks." The report adds that the Air Force installations at Comalapa Airport were attacked and "three A-37 Dragonfly jets were destroyed and two O-2 airplanes were damaged." Furthermore, one "C-47 airplane was damaged while flying over the Escalon neighborhood," and "two helicopters and one A-37 Dragonfly were damaged near Guazapa hill." "Eleven Armed Forces members were taken prisoner." The information adds that FMLN sappers destroyed 144 power lines and caused damage to the Cerron Grande Hydroelectric Dam. The "4th Military Detachment in San Francisco Gotera, the 3d Infantry Brigade in San Miguel, and the Armed Forces general staff in San Salvador" were attacked with artillery fire. Rebel forces attacked 4th Infantry and 1st Military Detachment troops in Chalatenango Department, inflicting "80 casualties." A report from Chalatenango notes that National Army for Democracy (ENPD) forces attacked the Cerron Grande Dam and inflicted 100 casualties, including one lieutenant, among the Sumpul Battalion and 1st Military

Detachment troops. The report adds that more than "30 M-16 rifles, two 90-mm guns, two M-60 machineguns, support weapons, and other war materiel were seized."

(Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador at 0000 GMT on 5 March carries a 6-minute report stating that "ENPD forces caused 15 casualties on the Atonal Battalion troops which carried out an operation on EL Tigre hill," adding that rebels clashed with Army troops at 1300 on 2 March in La Pena, Arenales, Plan Grande, La Finca, Las Flores, and Finca Leonor in San Miguel and Usulutan Departments. The report adds that rebel forces seized a large amount of M-60 machinegun rounds, bags of food, and war materiel. The rebel station adds that "at 1315 on 3 March FMLN forces attacked Lenca and Arce Battalion troops at the turn-off to Jocoaitique, Morazan Department, and inflicted six casualties—five soldiers and one NCO." Also, rebel forces clashed with Arce and Lenca Battalion troops in Perquin and Jocoaitique, Morazan Department for two days, "inflicting 26 casualties."

Rebel Radio Says Honduran Troops Made Incursion

PA1103232191 (Clandestine) Radio Farabundo Marti in Spanish to El Salvador 0000 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] We denounce the incursion yesterday [10 March] of Honduran troops, troops of the Honduran Army, into San Fernando Viejo in the western part of Chalatenango Department, with the clear intention of terrorizing the people, as part of the repressive plan for our country of the Armed Forces of [President Alfredo] Cristiani and [General Rene Emilio] Ponce.

Foreign Minister: Rights Resolution 'Positive'

PA1003162891 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Pacas has described as positive the 6 March resolution by the UN Human Rights Commission on El Salvador. He felt the resolution contains general points, except for the point on the murder of the Jesuit priests. Progress was also made in this respect, meaning the Armed Forces was not implicated as an institution. Instead, sectors within the Army are seen as hampering the clarification of the murders.

[Pacas] "It mentions the lack of cooperation from certain sectors in the Armed Forces. As I said, this seems to us to be positive, as the whole institution is not being blamed. We never felt that was fair."

The official disagreed with part of the resolution, basically on the point regarding the functioning of the judicial system.

[Pacas] "The topic of administration of justice must be viewed within the context of the lack of resources, which sometimes do not permit conducting an investigation as one would wish."

The text of the 13-point resolution clearly states that violations of individual freedoms have decreased, despite the level of violence that still prevails in the country.

[Pacas] "We must recognize there has been a decrease in violence. Also, it asks for an end to the use of explosive devices that harm civilians. Although this is not a direct reference to the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN], as a great deal of care was given to the language used so as not to accuse one or another sector, the Salvadoran people know who places those mines."

The resolution urges the government and the FMLN to continue the talks and to make efforts to reach the political agreements contracted upon in Geneva and Caracas. It urges the sides to guarantee the upcoming elections so that the people can freely vote. The resolution concludes by noting that the mandate of the UN special envoy on human rights for El Salvador is extended for another year.

Guatemala

URNG Will Meet Anywhere With Government

PA0803140391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1703 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Geneva, 4 Mar (EFE)—The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) will accept "any date and any place" to hold a preparatory meeting before starting negotiations with the government, Jorge Rosal, the guerrilla group's representative in Europe, said today.

The rebels are interested in beginning serious negotiations with the Guatemalan authorities, "because, up to now, we have only had conversations, since the meeting in Madrid failed in 1987," Rosal pointed out.

He also said that he was pleased that Guatemalan President Jorge Serrano "has set straight the contradictory statements of his government" and expressed his political will to restart the dialogue that began in Oslo in March of 1990 and to end almost 30 years of war.

For the first time representatives of the government, the Army, and the rebels will all be present at the preparatory meeting that will take place prior to the negotiations.

The URNG, which seeks to create a national consensus for an in-depth discussion of the country's problems, will fight until a solution is found for the causes that triggered the internal conflict," Rosal stated. [No opening quotation mark as received].

However, the guerrillas "hope that during the process, institutional and constitutional changes will be made to

create the bases that will allow all sectors to participate in the search for peace", he said.

The URNG representative believes that the current international situation is very favorable for finding a peaceful solution through dialogue, "with the support of the United States, which suspended its military aid to the Guatemalan Army in December 1990."

Spain and other countries have also "expressed their support in the past by offering their countries for meetings; countries such as Canada, Ecuador and Mexico", he added, referring to conversations held in Madrid, Ottawa and Quito last year.

"Spain, particularly, has always expressed its interest, goodwill and good intentions toward the process. Its position is very fitting because Spain is considered in Europe an appropriate interlocutor for the countries of Central and South America," he explained.

Rosal described as a "serious mistake" the decision of the UN Commission on Human Rights to handle the Guatemalan case next year, but not as a most serious case.

"Reality is very different" and this decision "sends the wrong message to the Army, which may think that it will not be criticized although it continues its repressive actions", he explained.

Rebel's Willingness Praised

PA0903174491 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 8 Mar 91 p 3

[Text] Presidential spokesman Manuel Conde Orellana has announced that "the government of President Serrano is very pleased with the political willingness expressed by the commanders of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] to continue with the dialogue in order to attain peace in Guatemala."

When asked about the diplomatic offensive waged abroad by the rebels and the statements by the commanders concerning the need for accelerating a direct dialogue between the government and the URNG, the presidential spokesman emphasized that is more evidence that they (the guerrillas) want to continue with the peace process.

Conde added: We would prefer it if this willignness expressed by the rebels were also accompanied by an end to acts of sabotage against the infrastructure of the country, which harm so many the people.

He said that the National Reconciliation Commission, which is leading this process, should promote the mechanisms necessary for achieving this dialogue and analyzing the proposals.

Concerning the possibility of holding preliminary talks in Costa Rica from 18 to 20 March, he said that no contact with the URNG has been officially planned inasmuch as President Serrano has been invited by his counterpart Rafael Calderon and the UN University of Peace to deliver opening lectures. He will avail himself of the visit to deliver a lecture at the Inter-American Human Rights Court.

International press reports have said that the rebel leaders, particularly Hector Nuila of the URNG political-diplomatic commission have been meeting with the EEC ambassadors accredited in Costa Rica.

The rebels have proposed, in priniciple, five basic points on the agenda to start the political negotiations which include eliminating the Civil Self-Defense Patrols; investigating the cases of murdered and missing persons dating back to previous administrations; amendments to the national Constitution in order to obtain a true, functional, and participatory democracy; a reorganization and elimination of police and paramilitary groups; and defining the role of the state in the development of the country.

URNG Leader on Dialogue With Government

PA0803003291 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 4 Mar 91 p 8

[Text] In accordance with the fundamental premise of contributing to the longed for democratic process—while substantial changes are taking place in all countries of the world, which are seeking to fully exercise democracy as the best model for human, peaceful, and progressive coexistence—SIGLO VEINTIUNO presents on this occasion an exclusive interview with guerrilla commander Pablo Monsanto, member of the general command of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG].

Monsignor Rodolfo Quezada Toruno, president of the National Reconciliation Commission, announced that conditions are set for the first meeting between the government and the URNG. This meeting could take place in mid-March. It will be the second phase of the talks initiated in Oslo, Norway that were subsequently ratified by the Guatemalan political organization in El Escorial and by other social sectors in the country.

In an effort for the Guatemalan people to know the thoughts of the protagonists—in whose hands lies the future of peace or the continuation of the conflict—in this dialogue, we were able to make contact with Commander Pablo Monsanto in Mexico through the telephone, fax, and CERIGUA. He responded to our questions.

In Guatemala, President Jorge Serrano Elias and Defense Minister Luis Enrique Mendoza said they would make known their opinions and positions after learning about the rebels' stance.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] Commander Monsanto, when do you think the direct dialogue between the government and the rebels could begin and in what country?

[Monsanto] The URNG General Command believes that according to what was signed in Oslo, the dialogue between the Army, the government, and the URNG should be initiated as soon as possible. In the latest meeting held with the National Reconciliation Commission, we agreed that the meeting would be held in Costa Rica. The Costa Rican Government has offered its territory and the necessary security so that the event can be held in a good atmosphere and without problems so that everyone can achieve positive results.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] What will be the URNG's proposal to the government and to the Army, in particular, so that concrete bases can be laid out for an agreement?

[Monsanto] The first meeting will be held to agree on the procedures to be followed, to express the political will of all sides to continue the search for political solutions to the conflict and crisis, and to confirm the role of the United Nations as mediator and observer.

The URNG General Command has made a series of proposals at all the meetings held in the framework of the Oslo agreement, which will be the basis for the discussions. These proposals were aimed at creating the conditions to resolve the crisis and find political solutions to the conflict.

We believe that to achieve this, institutional and constitutional changes are needed. In Guatemala we must create democratic institutions for the people that can allow for the participation of the majority of the population in making political, economic, and social decisions. This is the only way to overcome the fictitious, fake, and simulated democracy that exists in our country and to allow all sectors of society to express their arguments through legitimate means and to incorporate them into the political system.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] What is the Guatemalan Army's role in the dialogue?

[Monsanto] The demilitarization of the Army is an unavoidable requirement. The repressive system of political and military control built by the Army throughout the national territory to maintain control of the State must be dismantled. The Army must be reduced and relocated in the national territory. The impunity with which the Army and the state repressive forces operate must disappear from our homeland.

We must create democratic organizations to control the military and police corps so that they operate under a civilian authority. Society has the right and duty to demand a full explanation from the members of those corps.

We must create conditions to guarantee that the Army will not abolish the Constitution with its coup d'etats or violate the Constitution with its actions. We must also create democratic institutions that try and punish those who have become rich with the people's money through their government post and through corruption.

The people must be free to organize themselves without pressures or obstacles so that they can participate in the construction of a true, functional, and shared democracy. In addition, human rights must be respected, and those who violate them must be tried and punished.

The necessary economic structure must be built by the government to start the process of solving the crisis, the alarming levels of poverty, and the lack of services for the population. These measures must be adopted while the National Council prepares a program to solve the structural and historical causes which started the conflict.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] According to the guerilla leadership, what reforms should be made to the Constitution of the Republic?

[Monsanto] There should be reforms that abolish the Constitution's counterinsurgency essence, particularly concerning the Army's role in the state and society. The Army must become a military force which guarantees the national territory's sovereignty and integrity.

Another reform should deal with the ethnic groups' rights to participate. A true democracy cannot be conceived and built in Guatemala without their full participation.

The issues concerning private proverty and the economy should also be taken into consideration. Property, including private property, should have a social character. The rights of the workers and their labor organizations should be fully established. The same goes for the political and social rights of both men and women—meaning all the people of Guatemala—and women's rights, children's rights, and elders' rights.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] What are the guarantees demanded by the guerrilla groups to join the Guatemalan political process?

[Monsanto] The URNG is a political and military power. We are prepared to join a truly democratic political process. We will consider that the conditions to "legally" participate in one are not really given if these guarantees do not exist.

The URNG is struggling so that the great majority of the people may have all the necessary guarantees. As long as an oppressive and repressive regime exists, there can be no guarantees so that the revolutionary, popular, and democratic forces may participate in a process for the construction of a real, functional, and shared democracy.

[SIGLO VEINTIUNO] Do you think it is feasible for the URNG to create a political party that represents the rebels' hopes and to actively participate in an electoral process?

[Monsanto] We have stated that if a real, functional, and shared democracy is built here, the URNG forces will be willing to participate: they will join the mechanisms to

carry out the process as political forces. That is why it is necessary to create institutions in which the people trust and believe.

Honduras

Callejas on U.S. Military Aid, Armed Forces Cuts

PA1003195891 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Interview with President Leonardo Callejas by unidentified reporters in San Pedro Sula on 7 March—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Reporter] I have a question regarding statements by U.S. President George Bush, who said the aid to Central American armies will be reduced. We are seeing that joint exercises are being conducted between the U.S. and Honduran Armies. It seems this government will have to pay the full cost of maintaining the Armed Forces.

[Callejas] I have not heard President Bush say that. At one time, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker said there were four fundamental topics, one of them being disarmament. My government stance is that so long as the geopolitical situation in Central American exists which may pose a danger to national security or sovereignty, there cannot be a unilateral reduction of the Armed Forces. The Honduran Armed Forces are aware of the need to promote adjustments. They have accepted and recognize that other options for the Honduran Armed Forces must be introduced that shift the emphasis toward their participation in the productive sectors, management of forest resources, and maintaining national infrastructure projects. In this respect, redirecting the Armed Forces is positive.

We must also recall that the Honduran Armed Forces' budget was reduced by 10 percent in 1990. In addition, the economic adjustment has has a real impact on that budget. U.S. military aid is vital and decisive for a number of items in its budget, however, we must realize that at some time, it may happen that the Armed Forces will not receive U.S. military aid. If that happens, the national budget will cover the full cost of the Honduran Armed Forces.

[Reporter] General (?Discua) has said it is up to you to decide whether Palmerola will become an airport for the export of fruit. What is the likelihood that this may happen?

[Callejas] A big one. We have established a commission to review the situation. We feel that at the right time this is a major option in order to promote direct exports by air from Comayagua Valley. I believe the result will be positive. At this time, there is no final decision, but we do want to seek the best options for the airport at (?Soto Cano) Air Force Base [co-located with Palmerola].

[Reporter] Returning to the Army, [words indistinct] You say there will not be a reduction in the Army, but what will the government do?

[Callejas] We have had an increase in U.S. military aid to Honduras this year. I would rather not speculate on future options for military aid. I do realize that for the first time in history, the Honduran Armed Forces and Government.... [changes thought] I feel that sometimes criticisms are valid, but we must also recognize the effort by institutions. The Honduran Armed Forces reduced their budget in real terms. They did so by 10 percent in 1990, and, based on the economy's structural reorganization plan, the reduction in regular spending has been even greater.

In this respect, we must accept the following: 1) the Honduran Armed Forces' willingness to reduce their budget; and 2) U.S. military aid has slightly increased for the time being. For that reason, I would not like to work on the hypothesis that there will be a substantial reduction of military aid in 1992, because that would give the wrong impression to the United States. We need U.S. military aid and hope it will continue at current or higher levels.

[Reporter] The water projects in Lima are paralyzed because the government is behind its payments with some international organizations, such as London's [words indistinct] and the World Bank.

[Callejas] The Honduran Government is not behind its payments with the World Bank.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Held Responsible for 'Police Repression'

PA0803155791 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary: "The Other Face of Antonio Lacayo, a Demoniac and Repressive Man"]

[Text] The Nicaraguan people were able to see the other face of Antonio Lacayo yesterday—the face of the chief of police repression in Managua's customhouses. Engineer Antonio Lacayo, minister of the presidency—who has been posing as a good, wise, and measured man—personally ordered that tear gas be used; that the customs workers be beaten; and that dozens of workers struggling for better salaries be thrown in jail.

Antonio Lacayo's repressive actions imply that the right to survive does not exist in Nicaragua. This is a contradiction to what the Violeta Chamorro's administration reportedly advocates. We, the members of Sucesos Newscast, state: We are sure that Vice President Virgilio Godoy, whom many depict as a radical man and the enemy of the people, would not have acted like Antonio Lacayo did.

Engineer Lacayo seemed like a man possessed when he told Carlos Hurtado that it was time to act, so that the policemen would beat the customs workers who are struggling for the right to eat. The tear gas thrown by the police affected the health of children who live near the customs houses cleared by the Police.

Extravision's report last night proved the truth with facts, meaning the brutality of the police's actions—ordered by Lacayo and Hurtado—to repress those who seek to guarantee their food, at least. Never before, not even in Sandinist times, had the police acted so ferociously by attacking everyone with tear gas, which affected the children—who are now the new victims.

The children have a right to live and they are the reason for their parents' daily struggle, yet they have been subject to repression at an early age, when they have yet to leave the cradle, as a result of a presidential decree which causes horror and can only please those whose diabolical minds believe that violence is the alternative to impose social peace—without realizing that these actions provoke other reactions.

Carter Arrives, Meets With FNT Leaders

PA0803163591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who arrived in Managua yesterday, has promised National Workers Front [FNT] leaders that he will strive to establish a verification and control commission for the agreements signed between the government and the FNT. Carter visited the FNT leaders at the headquarters of the Sandinist Central Organization of Workers and said that he is willing to mediate on behalf of Nicaragua to get foreign support.

During the meeting with the former U.S. President, FNT coordinator Lucio Jimenez explained the FNT's position on the economic measures imposed by the government on 3 March. Carter warned that the international community will help Nicaragua if it is convinced that President Violeta Chamorro's economic plan will work. He urged everyone to protect the most needy sectors, which are faring the worst in the economic crisis.

FNT Decides To Continue Pressuring Government

PA1103172591 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] The FNT [National Workers Front], after holding an assembly with its leaders yesterday, agreed to continue pressuring the government to obtain salary increases to ensure that the workers will have the essentials to live.

The FNT announced that more than 12,000 sugar mill, customs, and port workers will join the strike and will support the movement that will use staggered stoppages to relieve [reforzar] the hospital workers who have been on strike for the past seven weeks.

FNT leaders demanded from the government a 470 percent salary increase while the government has established a ceiling of 350 percent. The government on 9 March announced, via the government minister, that the Army could intervene to stop more occupations of state buildings.

There has been a heavy military presence at the Sandino Airport since 9 March, after the workers announced that the strike would paralyze airline activities. Several foreign ministers, who will begin meeting tomorrow to determine how much assistance will be granted to Central America over the next few years, are expected to arrive today.

Workers Ousted Again From Customs Directorate

PA0903173691 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Customs workers were forcefully dislodged once again on 8 March by the police. The police occupy the customs offices in [word indistinct] and at the Augusto Cesar Sandino International Airport here in Managua. We have no information from the Port of Corinto, but we understand that the customs offices there are in the hands of the workers.

The Customs Directorate produces significant revenues for the country, and the problem is that currently all activity in that sector is at a standstill. Some businessmen are worried because they have merchandise held up at customs. The government, through the Finance Ministry, is concerned because it is not receiving any revenue from this activity. That is another problem. The customs workers are worried because they cannot even purchase the family basket with the paycheck their receive.

This is a complex situation which is not resolved by violent police action. The military occupation of the customs office is not the solution. This will not work because they do not know how these offices operate.

The customs office worker is not just a plain worker, he is trained and has extensive knowledge in insurance policy matters. He must have knowledge of and understand all those customs codes and those other complicated things. These people work under very difficult conditions. There are piles of paper work because modern technology is not used at the customs office yet.

In December, the Customs Directorate collected 10 million gold cordobas, which is a significant revenue. The people who work there, who contributed in collecting those 10 million cordobas, also have a right to certain work conditions and a salary, according to their capability. These are the conditions that have forced the Customs Directorate workers—a Finance Ministry department—to demand better salaries.

Army Seizes Airport, Strike Continues To Spread

PA1203013291 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1836 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Managua, 11 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Nicaraguan Army troops seized airport installations in Managua last night to prevent workers from seizing it and showing support for a strike by the doctors. A labor leader reported today that the strike was supposed to spread to state agencies and sugar mills today.

According to reports, the Army seized Augusto Cesar Sandino Airport last night after labor leaders announced that employees at that terminal would prevent planes from landing today.

Julio Garcia, leader of the National Workers Front (FNT, pro-Sandinist), told ACAN-EFE that the workers have not taken action because they are afraid of the military presence at the airport.

However, airport labor leader Luis Aguirre told ACAN-EFE today: "We are studying the steps that we are to take in the next few hours, despite the Army control."

On 8 March, airport workers rejected their salary, which was adjusted 200 percent, because they did not think the increase was "enough" to compensate for the impact caused by the government's abrupt devaluation of the currency.

The FNT agreed to drop its 600-percent salary increase demand for for a 400-percent increase, twice what the government is offering, in an attempt to solve the labor conflict, which threatens the plan for economic stability implemented by the authorities on 4 March.

In a televised public opinion program carried by the state-owned station, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo noted that the government has repeatedly sought a dialogue to end the labor conflict, which only hurts the poorest people.

In addition, an employee of the Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE) reported that most workers at the four main energy plants in Managua joined the strike today, with the exception of the administrative personnel who have continued working.

Radio Ya, a Sandinist station, reported today that INE workers in Leon, 90 km west of Managua, have also joined the strike, which was begun by 1,600 doctors demanding wage hikes.

The doctors' strike, which is more than five weeks old, took a turn for the worse when approximately 20 doctors and health workers began a hunger strike 18 days ago to pressure the government into meeting their salary demands.

Moreover, the employees of two of the largest hotels in this capital, the Intercontinental and Las Mercedes, as well as of the "Diplostore," a state enterprise that sells products in dollars, have also joined the strike.

Also, approximately 8,000 farm workers from the country's seven sugar mills stopped their activities, labor leader Garcia reported.

Godoy's Claims on Bermudez Killing Reported

PA0803145291 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 5 Mar 91 pp 1, 8

[Quotation marks as published]

[Text] Vice President Virglio Godoy has accused General Humberto Ortega, Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, and national assembly President Alfredo Cesar of having ordered the murder of Somozist National Guard colonel Enrique Bermudez Varela. Godoy explained in political terms the motives for the crime in a remarks to Mexican newspaper EXCELSIOR published on 1 March.

Considering that the vice president has levied very serious accusation against his country's army chief, the most prominent minister, and the assembly president, we deemed it appropriate to reprint the EXCELSIOR's news report without any commentary.

Report by correspondent Jose Melendez

San Jose—Vice President Virgilio Godoy said today here that, based on reports circulating in Managua among sectors highly informed about the situation in Nicaragua, top government and political figures, such as Gen. Humberto Ortega, Deputy Alfredo Cesar, and Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, could be involved in the murder of former contra leader Enrique Bermudez Varela. The murder "came from the side of the Sandinist officers," Godoy said in an interview to EXCELSIOR in San Jose, where he arrived to attend a seminar on the democratization of Central America. "Enrique Bermudez Varela was the main enemy of Gen. Ortega," the defense minister, he added.

The vice president said that many unconfirmed reports are circulating in Managua, linking Antonio Lacayo and another former contra Alfredo Cesar, (in addition to Gen. Ortega) as possible suspects in the murder. Godoy explained that President Violeta Chamorro is free of any suspicion.

The way in which the murder was committed served to deflect suspicions and led some to "attribute the murder to the sector headed Tomas Borge," a Sandinist leader who was interior minister. In addition, the Sandinist news media "diverted the public by suggesting that the 'former contras' be considered as possible suspects, because of their internal squabbles," he said.

Bermudez Varela, known as Commander "380," was murdered on 15 February in the parking lot of Managua's Intercontinental Hotel. Bermudez Varela belonged to the defunct National Guard, the army that

sustained the Somozist dictatorship for almost 50 years. In the 1970's he served as Nicaraguan military attache in Washington.

The Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN), the Nicaraguan government, and other political forces in the country condemned the murder of the the former military chief of the "contras," a force financed and controlled by the United States as a military instrument used to harass the Sandinist regime that took power in 1979 and lost the February 1990 elections. President Violeta Chamorro took office in April of last year.

Vice President Godoy, whose only duties concern Central American integration and the parliament, and who is practically an outsider in this government, said the culprits were fearful over "the belief that a new political organization or party was being established with Bermudez Varela at the head that would have the same profile the FSLN has as a political and military party.

"That would have been troublesome for the culprits because they want a greater fragmentation or or division in what used to be the Nicaraguan Resistance [RN]. Bermudez Varela had been chosen shortly before his murder as the RN's sole representative," he noted.

"Bermudez Varela was the catalyzing agent for a new type of unity," the vice president said. Godoy has pressed Gen. Ortega to step down, since the FSLN is now participating in the goverment and has been granted a share of power that is inexplicable since it lost the elections."

Godoy noted that "great mystery surrounds the identity of those who are directly responsible. The general impression is that the mystery will remain."

Godoy Denies Making Accusation

PA0903013891 Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 5 Mar 91 p 22

[Text] Nicaraguan Vice President Virgilio Godoy Reyes has denied statements that were attributed to him in a report published by EL NUEVO DIARIO. According to the report, Godoy accused Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo, General Humberto Ortega, and National Assembly President Alfredo Cesar of having ordered the murder of [former contra leader] Commander Enrique Bermudez Varela.

"I never read that rag because it is a waste of time. One never knows when it will include a photo of a naked man or woman," Godoy said while picking up an issue of the Sandinist newspaper he was provided to read the aforementioned reprint of an article from a Mexican newspaper.

"I am called all kinds of things in this country, but never an idiot. I cannot state anything about who the killers of Enrique Bermudez were, much less mention people by name; that would be nonsense," Vice President Godoy said.

He pointed out that the report published today contradicted itself when it stated that he accused Lacayo, Ortega, and Cesar of ordering the murder of Bermudez, but at the end of the report it stated that "Godoy noted that great mystery surrounds the identity of those who are directly responsible...."

Godoy added: "The article first states that I gave the names of those supposedly responsible for Bermudez' murder and then it concludes by stating that the identity of those responsible are not known and that this will remain a mystery."

"This is an ill-intentioned article that was only intended to sell the paper, because they are probably experiencing serious problems and they know that my remarks might sell about 100 more copies," he said.

Godoy explained that last week in San Jose he granted an interview on Nicaragua's economic situation, but those remarks were not included in the newspaper report.

He recalled that the same journalist asked him at the end of the interview if it was true that [former Sandinist Interior Minister] Tomas Borge was behind Bermudez' murder "and I specifically told him that the murder was a big mystery and that maybe it would remain a mystery. I also told him that the general opinion was that this (the murder) came from the only side in which Bermudez had enemies—the Sandinist Front."

Panama

Foreign Ministry Communique on Safe-Conducts

PA0703160991 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 6 Mar 91 pp 2, 24

["Text" of communique issued by the Foreign Ministry in Panama City on 5 March]

[Text] Referring to a recent communique issued by the attorney general of the Republic on 4 March, the Foreign Ministry wishes to state the following:

1. It is true that granting safe-conducts is a responsibility of the Foreign Ministry rather than the Attorney General's Office. However, it is not true that the evidence used both by the Foreign Ministry and the state in whose diplomatic mission a person subject to political persecution has sought asylum is the result of the investigation carried out by and the reports provided by the Attorney General's Office.

2. The granting of safe-conducts, which may result in emotional reactions, must be handled with discretion because the territorial state has a responsibility to guarantee the physical safety of the person who sought asylum. Even though the desirable thing would be for the Foreign Ministry to notify the Attorney General's Office about the possible granting of a safe-conduct, this does not exempt the Attorney General's Office from its duty of always being prepared for the appropriate extradition

request. According to international agreements signed by Panama, safe-conducts are normally granted in cases where people have sought asylum at a diplomatic mission.

3. It is not true that last year the Foreign Ministry pledged to finance the payment of legal fees for handling extraditions to other countries. The Attorney General's Office, not the Foreign Ministry, is responsible for all the procedures involving crimes. The Foreign Ministry is nothing more than a channel or a bridge between the Attorney General's office and the state in whose territory the persons is located. Last year the Foreign Ministry strived to attain, through the Cabinet Council, the necessary funds to pay the legal fees for handling extraditions. It would have been shameful for the country to have the extradition requests held up because the branch in charge of the crimes did not bother to include the appropriate funds in the National Budget.

[Dated] Panama City, 5 March 1991.

Arias Reports Plan To Fight Drug Trafficking

PA0903000491 Panama City CRITICA LIBRE in Spanish 8 Mar 91 pp 1, 26

[By Justino Gonzalez, Jr.]

[Text] Panamanian Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon announced yesterday that Panama plans to sign with the U.S. Coast Guard Service an agreement to stop the influx of drugs through the Panamanian coasts.

This statement came in response to public U.S. statements about the U.S. authorities' concern over the use of Panamanian air space, seas, and territory to smuggle drugs that are later shipped to the United States.

Reportedly, the document will be signed by the National Maritime Service of Panama and the U.S. Coast Guard Service and adequate equipment, patrol boats, and arms will be made available to fight drug trafficking. The agreement reportedly would be for one or two years and is renewable.

Vice President Arias Calderon avoided commenting on statements by Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics Matters Melvin Levitsky that money laundering in Panama is returning to the level it was at during the Noriega days.

He dodged a journalist's question in this regard by suggesting that "questions on money laundering should be made to the Panamanian banks."

Eduardo Lasso Valdes [President of the National Banking Association] has said that it is possible that the National Banking System is being used to launder money but "this does not mean we are money launderers."

Lasso Valdes said the United States must be able to present strong evidence whenever it accuses a person of money laundering. He said he does not know on what the State Department bases its charge that money laundering activities in Panama are reaching the levels that existed prior to Noriega's downfall.

Soviet Diplomat on Political, Commercial Relations

PA0903181091 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0056 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Panama City, 8 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—Soviet diplomat Yuri Chemalin stated today that the USSR is interested in establishing diplomatic relations with Panama expeditiously.

Chemalin, the USSR commercial attache to Costa Rica, stated that a delegation from the Soviet Foreign Ministry will travel to Panama soon to talk with Panamanian authorities about opening a consulate in Panama City. A Soviet commercial office has been operating in Panama City for the past two years.

Chemalin is accompanying eight Soviet businessmen who are displaying their products at the Panamanian "Expocomer 91" international fair. More than 600 firms from all over the world are exhibiting their products at this fair.

The Soviet representative pointed out that Panamanian-Soviet trade reaches $30 million a year. He added that his country's business sector is interested in strengthening ties with its Latin American counterpart.

In regard to this matter, Chemalin said he had met with Panamanian Government representatives to study technical cooperation programs for boosting relations between both countries.

He added that the news agency "Novosti," together with the Soviet firm "Tenomach" and the Soviet-Polish firm "Orbita," formed the "Contac" company in January. This company will develop information-related commercial relations in Latin America.

Argentina

Foreign Minister Ends Southern Cone Tour

PY1103192991 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2237 GMT 9 Mar 91

[By special correspondent Marcela Listorti]

[Excerpts] Montevideo, 9 Mar (TELAM)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella closed today his first official visit to Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. The purpose of this tour was to put the final touches to the preparations for the signing of the agreement creating the Southern Cone Common Market (Mercosur). The agreement will be signed when the presidents of these four countries meet in Asuncion on 26 March.

At the end of his first official tour as foreign minister, he said that all his government's objectives had been fulfilled. He characterized the results of his visit as very satisfactory. [passage omitted]

While in Montevideo, Di Tella made a unscheduled official visit to President Luis Lacalle and talked with his counterpart Hector Gross Espiell. Uruguayan officials showed great interest in the creation of a common market by 1995. The same thing happened with Bolivian officials who have already made the first moves toward joining the group in the future.

On 11 March, Di Tella will begin the second leg of his official tour of bordering countries. This time he will visit Santiago de Chile and La Paz, Bolivia, carrying the same message and following the same priorities.

Di Tella Travels Again

PY1103212391 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1952 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Buenos Aires, 11 Mar (TELAM)—Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella left this afternoon to Chile and Bolivia where he will meet with Presidents Patricio Aylwin and Jaime Paz Zamora, respectively. This will be the final stage of the minister's tour through neighboring countries to discuss the process of political and economic integration of the Southern Cone.

Di Tella departed this afternoon for Santiago from the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Airport. He will meet with Chilean President Patricio Aylwin at La Moneda Palace at 1145 tomorrow morning and later with Chilean Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma.

President Menem Challenges Union Workers

PY1103225391 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—President Carlos Menem yesterday challenged railway workers to remain on strike "for another month, a year, as long as they want" but warned that "in the meantime plans for the privatization of the company will continue at full speed."

"We won't negotiate with the rebel branches," he told reporters at the La Celia week-end ranch in Esteban Echeverria, where local Peronist leader Alejandro Granados launched his campaign for mayor.

Menem arrived at the ranch just after noon and was received by Granados, his wife, municipal authorities, and some 2000 women from the district who gathered to mark International Women's Day (March 8).

In a lengthy speech, Menem greeted the women of Echeverria and said "there is no doubt that all of you, the militant women of Argentina, have become one of the pillars of this democracy."

The President also stated that "coup d'etats have ended as well the so called financial and contractual fatherlands which allowed the enrichment of a minority."

"I'm doing things according to the needs of the people," claimed Menem while using the opportunity to criticize CTERA [Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic] teachers union leader Mary Sanchez for making the sector's conflict "political."

In other comments the President defended his administration's Persian Gulf policy.

Menem chided Congress, saying: "If I had submitted a draft law granting the Navy authorization to help recover the territories occupied by Saddam Hussein, I would still be waiting for approval when the conflict reached a end."

He boasted that Argentina "is one of the 28 countries of the new international order" and in this sense justified the deployment of Argentine warships in the Gulf.

In his speech, Menem also claimed that "if (ex-President Domingo) Peron were still alive, he would have put forth this same programme of government for the republic."

"The time has come for Argentines to suffer so that we can stop suffering for once and for all," said Menem.

Education Union Activities, Strikes Surveyed

PY1103234391 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 11 Mar 91 p 7

[Text] (NA-DYN)—The official start of the 1991 school year today will be marred by a series of strikes this week called by CTERA [Confederation of Education Workers of the Argentine Republic] teachers union grouping around the country.

President Carlos Menem nevertheless will formally inaugurate classes with a speech today. The President planned to deliver the speech in Las Lomitas, Formosa province, where he was held captive during the past military dictatorship, but had to cancel the trip because of floods in the area.

Classes began on schedule last Monday in the Federal Capital but will be disrupted this week as the local UMP

[Trade Union of Primary School Teachers] primary teachers union joins the stoppage, while schools will be closed throughout Buenos Aires province as the district's SUTEBA [Solo Trade Union of Education Workers] and FEB [Federation of Buenos Aires Province Teachers] unions go on strike.

Conadu [National Confederation of University Teachers] university lecturers union has also endorsed CTERA's strike but professors will continue to give exams.

Members of the FETEN [Federation on National Education Workers] high school teachers union, on the other hand, will be going to work this week after clinching a pay deal with the government for a minimum wage of two million australs.

Different provinces have modified their school calendar in line with the strikes, postponing the official start of classes until next Monday.

Classes were scheduled to begin today in schools under national jurisdiction as well as in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Catamarca, Chubut, La Rioja, Mendoza, Neuquen, Santa Fe, Tucuman and Cordoba, although primary school opened last Monday in this last province.

In turn the governments of Chaco, La Pampa, Rio Negro, Jujuy and Chubut decided to postpone the formal start of classes until next Monday after unions in those jurisdictions called a one-week strike starting today.

CTERA's one-week strike has been endorsed in the provinces of Buenos Aires, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Formosa, Jujuy, La Rioja, Tucuman, Neuquen, Tierra del Fuego, Mendoza, Santa Fe, Catamarca, Chubut, San Juan and Santiago del Estero.

In separate news on the strike front:

—Dissident branches of La Fraternidad train drivers union continued to analyze the draft wage proposal drawn up by the Labour Ministry while rebel leaders will be meeting today with the formal union leadership. Meanwhile the Roca, Sarmiento and San Martin lines remained paralyzed by wildcat strikes for the 26th consecutive day with no immediate prospect of a settlement. Erratic trains continued to run Mitre routes while services on the Belgrano and Urquiza [routes] ran normally.

—UOM [Metalworkers Union] metal workers union will resume negotiations with the Metal Industry Coordinating board this afternoon. Talks adjourned twice last week after the sides failed to arrive at a compromise. The union is demanding a raise of 30 percent for March but businessmen have offered only 21 percent, which includes the 250,000-austral lumpsum bonus granted in February. UOM is also concerned over the wave of lay-offs affecting the sector, especially the situation in Acindar company which has laid off over 1,000 workers.

—Liniers livestock market employees will launch a battle plan today, including progressive partial strikes, to back demands for pay hikes. The measure may seriously affect the handling of livestock at the market as well as meat-packing plant deliveries. Union leader Ramom Caldeira claimed that the livestock market workers have not received pay increases since last October. He also rejected the offer of a six percent hike backdated to January as "insufficient."

Iraqi Bribes in Condor-2 Missile Project Viewed

PY0803213991 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 Mar 91 p 11

[By special correspondent Flavio Tavares]

[Text] The Iraqi Government made multimillion-dollar investments in Argentina between 1985 and 1989, but it is not likely that Saddam Husayn had acquired farms, mansions, or other assets in that country, investments that were reported in the Italian magazine IL MONDO.

At least, there is no clear visible evidence of that fact. If he did buy them then his front men are so well hidden and protected that it will be difficult to identify them, except through the dictator's own secret files.

What is beginning to emerge now, however, is the other side of the Iraqi multimillion-dollar investment: The corruption that Husayn sowed among government officials and some private sectors to facilitate and accelerate the development of the Condor 2 missile project. It is believed that Iraq invested between $1.5 and $2.2 billion in those four years during which the missile was being developed, a period that culminated with a "successful" testing in April 1989 at a secret base in Patagonia, southern Argentina.

Everything was secret. In record time (in a country where everything is slow), a consortium of private enterprises built for the Argentine Air Force the secret base called Falda del Carmen, in the mountains of Cordoba Province. There, during the government of Raul Alfonsin, Argentine Air Force experts worked with technicians from German, Italian, and U.S. private enterprises. The contract was also secret. Alfonsin signed an "accord" with the Egyptian Government, which performed as the Iraqi front at a time when Husni Mubarak and Saddam Husayn were living their romantic "Islamic Brothers" period, an episode that broke up shortly afterward.

It is commonly said now that secrecy was possible only because the operation was lubricated with bribes and "petty cash" funds. Current Argentine Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo openly made that insinuation when he officially disclosed that secret contracts concerning the Condor 2 missile had been signed by Alfonsin and his ministers.

When he mentioned the secret accord, two months ago, Cavallo was still the foreign minister. As such, he had access to the secret protocols of which, until then, the

Argentine Government had denied all knowledge. Many believe that between 15 and 25 percent of the Iraqi investments were split into many so-called secret "petty cash" funds and distributed among the different circles that had made the transaction easier.

There are doubts about whether Argentina in fact managed to export some of the missiles to Iraq following the Patagonia tests. Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez has just said in Egypt that no missiles were exported, and thus the only lethal outcome of the project was the corruption, of which today all Argentines are suspicious, especially those who are trying to explain this ambitious program that Iraq believed to be the goose that would lay the golden eggs that would arm its armies.

Bolivia

COB-Sponsored March Described as 'Failure'

PY0803200991 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] The government has described as a failure the march sponsored by the Bolivian Labor Federation [COB], in which barely 4,000 people participated, and said that this demonstrates the erosion of the trade union structure within the most important workers' organization.

Information Under Secretary Mario Rueda Pena has pointed out that the COB's call to the rank and file was not fully met and this demonstrates that the negotiations on salaries conducted by the executive branch have been successful.

[Begin Rueda recording] [passage indistinct] Then we counted the columns by blocks. There were not more than 250 people in any block [not further identified]. This, multiplied by the 17 blocks totals about 4,000 to 4,500 people.

I consider this figure to be insignificant. It dramatically demonstrates a new and notable failure not only by the COB but also by the political parties such as the MNR [Nationalist Revolutionary Movement], the United Left, the CONDEPA [Conscience of the Fatherland], and the Free Bolivia Movement that called their rank and file to participate. The latter decided, however, not to join the rally or the COB-sponsored march. [end recording]

Rueda Pena also announced that the membership of the political parties such as the MNR, the Free Bolivia Movement, and the United Left in the past general election must have decreased in view of the reduced attendance of their militants in the march sponsored by the most important workers' organization.

[Begin Rueda recording] These negligible results indeed demonstrate that the MNR has turned its back on [word indistinct]. The MNR's electoral progress has either vanished or the MNR policy of support for the COB is unrepresentative.

I tend to believe that the MNR has become estranged from its rank and file and [word indistinct] there is no consistency between what is said and what is done. [end recording]

The information under secretary noted that the counting and assessment of the COB-sponsored march was carried out in a coordinated manner between the Information Ministry and the Interior Ministry.

Brazil

Potential Weapons Trade With Iran Examined

PY0903171491 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Mar 91 p 1

[By Roberto Godoy]

[Text] The Brazilian aerospace, defense equipment, and military service industries may become regular suppliers for the Iranian Armed Forces—a foreign trade link that was forbidden by Brazilian diplomacy during the eight years of war with Iraq. This measure was in force until 1988. Iranian Deputy Defense Minister Mehdi Basargan [name and title as published] made a secret visit to Brazil two months ago to contact Embraer [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] in Sao Jose dos Campos, Sao Paulo State, and the official sector about the purchase of armored vehicles. [as published]

Barsagan showed interest in contracting a program for the recovery of Iranian war materiel, which has been made difficult by the Gulf conflict and a boycott by manufacturers, most of them British or American. The complete program may be implemented over a period of three to five years at a cost of $1 billion.

Iran wants to purchase ground attack, high precision fighters such as the AMX subsonic airplane, which is an Italian-Brazilian project. These aircraft, estimated at $16 million each, will reinforce specialized Iranian Air Force squadrons, which currently have less than 40 Phantom F-4G's that were manufactured late in the 1970's and that have never been upgraded in terms of technology. Barsagan, who is also responsible for military supplies, told Embraer authorities that the re-equipment program envisages the purchase of 40 planes of this type in the medium term. If the AMX plane is selected this will mean an order amounting to $640 million.

The Iranian Air Force already has 12 Tucano Emb-312 turboprop planes that were sold under absolute secrecy in 1987. They now want to increase their fleet by adding 36 aircraft. The entire purchase will amount to more than $100 million.

Mehdi Basargan was a member of the delegation headed by Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Hoseyn Mahlujchi that was received by Infrastructure Minister Ozires Silva. Basargan's position in the delegation was that of an "engineer." One of Basargan's main areas of operation is the upgrading of artillery, tanks, and light

armored vehicles using modernization kits [preceding word in English]. Basargan has reported that about 350 combat vehicles of various types could be upgraded. This project will cost an estimated $105 million.

At this point, the most likely transaction is the purchase of the AMX plane. This transaction would compensate for the $570 million Brazil pays Iran each month for the 100,000 barrels of oil it imports every day from Iran. The Embraer fighter-bomber is fast and agile, and is equipped with 30 different computers. It can launch smart weapons with a surgical precision similar to the precision of the allied forces' attacks against strategic targets in Baghdad during the Gulf war.

Border Problems Result in Demarcation Effort

PY0903135291 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1605 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] Brasilia, 7 Mar (EFE)—Brazil and Venezuela have begun to install markers on the Brazilian-Venezuelan border in Sierra Parima, in the Amazon, where incidents between Venezuelan troops and Brazilian miners who are illegally operating in that region have been reported in the past few months.

In statements released today, General Taumaturgo Sotero Vaz, the chief of staff for the Brazilian Military Command of the Amazon, pointed out that the task, which began last week, is being carried out by 160 civilian and military technicians from both countries. The two countries have decided to increase the number of markers, in accordance with the 1859 border treaty, in order to prevent new incidents with the miners.

The general, who is responsible for troops patrolling the Amazon and policing the illegal mining of gold deposits, pointed out: "We have nothing to add to the 1859 matter and there is no problem whatsoever in that regard."

The demarcation task will be suspended on 15 May and will be resumed late this year when the rainfall decreases. Authorities from both nations have reiterated that they will closely abide by the 1859 treaty and there is no territorial claim whatsoever.

Nevertheless, political sectors from the Brazilian State of Rondonia, which is on the Venezuelan border, have been protesting since mid-January due to their fear that Brazil could lose up to 5,000 square km after the new demarcation. The activities of the "garimpeiros" (gold prospectors) and the progressive extinction of the Yanomami Indians have raised doubts about the border, where there are stretches of up to 160 km without any landmarks.

'Operation Death Penalty' Reportedly Kills 100

PY0903155091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1704 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Vitoria (Brazil), 8 Mar (EFE)—Congressmen, mayors, and union representatives have informed the Justice Ministry that in 1990, over 100 people linked to criminal activities were murdered in the Brazilian state of Espirito Santo by an extermination group called "Operation Death Penalty."

The newspaper O GLOBO reported today that the organization is made up of policemen and former policemen who are able to act freely. Custodio Castelane, chairman of the Espirito Santo Civilian Police Union Organization, reported that it is impossible to confirm the participation of police agents in those crimes because no investigations were carried out in any of the murder cases.

According to the report, last month the extermination group killed five minor vagabonds and two prisoners who left prison with permission to visit their relatives.

Romanian Premier Roman Begins Visit 10 Mar

AU1103205991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1932 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 11/3/1991—On Sunday, March 10 Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman arrived in Brazil for an official visit.

In Sao Paulo the Romanian premier met with representatives of the Romanian community in Brazil, an opportunity to discuss the way in which they could contribute to the intensification of the trade exchanges with business circles in Romania.

On Monday, the Romanian prime minister met with the governor of the Sao Paulo State, Oreste Quercia. Aspects were approached concerning the possibilities of collaboration with businessmen in the city and state of Sao Paulo.

On his way to Brazil, Mr. Petre Roman made a stop-over in Guayaquil. Together with that state's governor, Oswaldo Molestina, with other representatives of the local power bodies analysis was made of the possibilities to attract the companies and institutions in that state into joint Romanian-Ecuadorian actions of collaboration.

It was agreed that a group of businessmen from the Guayaquil State come to Bucharest in the next months to find the practical means of action in keeping with the agreements signed during Romanian Premier Petre Roman's visit to Ecuador.

Chile

Special Investigator Requested for Letelier Case

PY1203024491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] At 0900 tomorrow, Tuesday, Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma will personally submit to Supreme Court President Luis Maldonado a petition for the designation of a special judge to investigate the murder of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier.

The Foreign Ministry officially released this report after approval of the request by President Patricio Aylwin at La Moneda Palace.

Police Break Up Demonstrations Near La Moneda

PY1203011591 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Carabineros detained some demonstrators today at noon when some 300 people created a disturbance in front of La Moneda Palace, the government house.

The demonstration was called by several organizations, among them the so-called Committee Against Impunity [Comite Contra la Impunidad]. The demonstration began by the metal barriers that had been erected by the police.

After shouting slogans demanding the end of impunity over the human rights violations during the military regime, the demonstrators began to disperse. However, a few minutes later they returned and knocked down the barriers. They succeeded in reaching the very doorsteps of La Moneda Palace, despite repeated appeals by the police chiefs through loudspeakers.

This action forced the police to intervene. They used tear gas grenades and water cannons to disperse the demonstrators. This happened a little past 1513. Police agents have surrounded the palace to prevent new disturbances.

UDI: Commission Must Investigate Pre-1973 Years

PY0803192991 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 7 Mar 91

[Text] The UDI [Independent Democratic Union] has said that some sectors in the country do not understand anything about the search for peace and reconciliation. UDI President Julio Dittborn has proposed that the Rettig Commission investigation be extended to cover [former presidents] Salvador Allende's and Eduardo Frei's administrations in order to find out the entire truth.

UDI Secretary General Joaquin Lavin has said that all political parties have agreed on the need to heal the wounds and to look toward the future. The document adds that some recent incidents regrettably show that some sectors have not learned anything about this experience and continue to use violence and other means to stain basic state institutions through systematic smear campaigns that sows hate and encourage revenge. The document mentions the release of three extremists who burned the faces of two girls with acid, the repeated Christian Democratic Youth [JDC] charges against the Supreme Court, and the discovery of a sinister Manuel Rodriguez Patriotic Front [FPMR] plan against two justices.

It was reported that in the past few hours JDC President Sergio Micco said that his party [words indistinct] when the democratic system was overthrown in 1973 and that it should assume its responsibility and make a self-evaluation of its mistakes. Lavin said that the ruling party is full of contradictions. He added that in 1970 the Christian Democratic Party [PDC] supported Salvador Allende's election in Congress and then in 1973 it supported the military coup. Lavin said that the Rettig report lacks a lot because it does not say anything about the 15,000 armed extremists who lived in the country at the time. Lavin said that this was confirmed when Fidel Castro decorated the Cuban general in charge of those irregular forces.

Julio Dittborn said that the scope of the Rettig report should be extended:

[Begin Dittborn recording] I think the Rettig report is not complete. I think that the commission was dissolved too soon and that alot is still missing. The commission lacked the time to fully investigate. I think that we must ask the president to designate the same commission, using the same decree, but changing the period that the investigation will cover. It should at least investigate the government of Popular Unity and perhaps the government of President Eduardo Frei because it is obvious that the military revolt did not happen without a cause. The military did not act just because some unknown officer wanted to take power. They were strongly united for 16 years. [end recording]

Regarding President Aylwin's note to the Supreme Court asking it to speed up the trials that involve human right violations, the two UDI leaders said that democracy is based on the independence of state branches and that pressure does not help.

Opposition Criticizes Aylwin's Response to Court

PY0903152491

[Editorial report] Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish at 2200 GMT on 5 March, in its regular newscast, carries two reports on reactions to President Patricio Aylwin's response to the Supreme Court note about a campaign against the judicial branch.

In a four-minute report, the National Renewal Party warns that the conflict between the executive branch and the Supreme Court "endangers the state of law and the independence of state branches." National Renewal Vice President Miguel Otero says that his party agrees "there is a campaign to discredit the judicial branch." Otero adds that "Aylwin's attitude was regrettable" because his words constitute "pressure at the highest level to influence court decisions." Otero says further that "Aylwin's response was not satisfactory." Otero also states that Aylwin's "ironic answer" was inadequate because the "executive branch has to begin any legal action" because the courts cannot take positions.

In a three-minute report, the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] states that it shares the Supreme Court's concern over "the smear campaign against the judicial branch." The UDI says "it is clear that this is an attempt

to pressure the Supreme Court to accept the government position on the 1978 amnesty law." UDI Deputy Andres Chadwick adds that "the pressure campaign" attempts to change a Supreme Court decision and force Congress "to approve the judicial reform prepared by the government." Chadwick then asks the president "to use all his influence to put an end to the campaign to discredit" the Supreme Court. Chadwick says the campaign "seriously affects the state of law and our institutional stability."

Respect for 'Principles of Democracy' Urged

PY0903202491 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Relay from La Moneda Palace by Graciela Contreras]

[Text] The government has expressed concern about those who misuse an authorized rally and who take advantage of such rallies to carry out actions that go against the principles of democracy.

The issue was raised here at La Moneda in the wake of the incidents that marred the celebration of the International Women's Day, at which Interior Minister Enrique Krauss spoke. The minister said that to carry out such public acts, for example against other branches of government, distorts a legitimate and responsible channel of expression. In this regard, Krauss said:

[Begin Krauss recording] I would like to express the government's concern over the fact that, in our system of democratic coexistence, public demonstrations, whatever their motivation, should conform to the basic rules of coexistence. Democracy is the exercise of freedom, and my freedom borders on the freedom of others. The current system of institutions and the current system of laws guarantee the exercise of all rights. The state, as the repository of the common good, should regulate the exercise of such rights.

We believe that this government, which has given so much evidence of its will to promote participatory coexistence, has the right to ask the various sectors—particularly those which claim be committed to the task of democratic reconstruction—to make their participation conform to the rules of coexistence. In practice, this means that some actions that have specific purposes, that are held in places that are known to or established by the authorities, and that are publicly announced, should not be used to carry out other types of demonstrations. [end recording]

On behalf of the government, Minister Krauss urged the organizations that legitimately want to express their opinion, to make use of the appropriate instruments of democratic institutions, because the law allows such public meetings. He said, however, that it is unacceptable to use such meetings for staging demonstrations that go against the rules of coexistence, no matter how legitimate a demand may be, because this is out of line with democracy.

Romanian Prime Minister Meets Congressmen

PY0703011591 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman has stressed the fact that elements of the former regime coexist with the current administration within the democratic process in Chile.

Roman today visited Congress, where he met with Senate President Gabriel Valdez and with Chamber of Deputies Chairman Jose Antonio Viera-Gallo. He was also received at a session of the Chamber of Deputies that was attended by around 70 deputies of all political blocs. On this occasion Viera-Gallo said that Chileans admire the courage of the Romanian people and their leaders who had to confront an awful dictatorship in which despotism and corruption prevailed. The Romanian people did not hesitate at the decisive hour. With great sacrifice they freed their country, Viera-Gallo added. He said: We are aware of the decisive methods employed by Ion Iliescu's administration and especially by his prime minister in the search to reestablish in Romania the democratic institutions and to make the rules of law prevail. Roman, in turn, briefed the congressmen on the process that ended with the ouster of dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu and the efforts that are being made to strengthen democracy in Romania.

Following a lunch, Roman held a news conference in which he commented on the democratic process in Chile and in Romania.

[Begin Roman recording] There are similar aspects but there is also a very important difference in the sense that representatives of the former regime coexist with the current administration in the Chilean democratic process. Nobody can deny the democratic process that is taking place in Chile, which is very important. The Chilean democratic process is very special considering the presence of the political coalition in this process. This is a fact that I consider to be very important. [end recording]

President Meets With Roman

PY0603020691 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] President Patricio Aylwin today hosted a lunch for Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman. After the lunch, which was attended by ministers, ambassadors, and representatives of several institutions, Aylwin accompanied Roman to the main gate of La Moneda Palace, where he said good-bye to him with a warm embrace.

Roman speaks fluent Spanish and according to those attending the lunch, he elicited surprise and emotion when he recited a Pablo Neruda poem with great feeling.

Asked about the results of the meeting with President Aylwin, Roman first said that he was deeply moved by

the speech the president delivered last night on the report submitted by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

[Begin Roman recording] We had a very interesting meeting in which we discussed the Chilean democratic process. I was deeply moved by the speech the president addressed to the Chilean people. I think this experience is very useful for the democratic process, which is almost similar to that being experienced in Romania. I think that at least in this sense, the meeting was very useful. President Aylwin and I are convinced that Chilean-Romanian relations could be strengthened. Finally, I can say that we are satisfied with the results of the meeting. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Roman Meets Press, Leaves

PY0803204191 Santiago Radio Nacional de Chile Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman has stressed the importance of the joint Romanian-Chilean project to make best use of his country's maritime transport potential and the port facilities of East Europe.

Roman also said that the concrete talks between businessmen and financial circles of the two countries seek to initiate industrial projects. Roman gave a news conference on the last day of his visit to Chile before returning at noon yesterday.

Colombia

CNG Establishes Conditions for Negotiations

PA1203022191 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] This afternoon the Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board [CNG] established the conditions for its first meeting with the government in three messages sent to different recipients.

The CNG tells the government that the meeting can be held at the International Red Cross' headquarters in Bogota, that the church can become a permanent overseer of the peace dialogue, and that the Constituent Assembly can designate one of its members to guarantee its commissioners' security.

Members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and Army of National Liberation would travel from La Uribe, Meta, to Bogota in a helicopter along with delegates from the clergy, government, and Constituent Assembly.

Meanwhile, 19 casualties were inflicted on the guerrillas today during clashes in Antioquia, Bolivar, Santander, and Valle Departments.

Bogota Rejects CNG Proposal

PA1203030391 Paris AFP in Spanish 0128 GMT 12 Mar 91

[Text] Bogota, 11 Mar (AFP)—Tonight the Colombian Government rejected the guerrilla command's proposal to initiate peace talks in Bogota, saying that it is another delay tactic.

This was the response of Government (Interior) Minister Humberto de la Calle and presidential peace adviser Jesus Antonio Bajarano to the suggestion made a few hours earlier by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the Army of National Liberation (ELN) regarding opening the talks at the Red Cross headquarters in the Colombian capital.

The two organizations that comprise the self-styled Simon Bolivar National Guerrilla Coordinating Board, requested that subversive delegates' be taken to and from the meeting by helicopter, alongside several guarantors from the government, church, Constituent Assembly, and Red Cross.

The government communique issued by Narino House, the executive headquarters, says the following:

"1. Today the FARC and ELN issued a document requesting that the authorities meet with them at the Red Cross headquarters in Bogota, and guarantee their transportation to the meeting.

"2. The national government feels that this request confirms the desire of these groups to delay the initiation of a true dialogue that will lead to the armed conflict's definitive solution by once again changing the terms for the first direct dialogue with the commission named by the government for this purpose.

"3. Furthermore, the government reiterates that it will not allow, as a condition for initiating the dialogue, any efforts to neglect the law or the authorities' constitutional and legal duties."

The document recalls that over the past few weeks the Colombian Government said that it would initiate negotiations anywhere within the national territory, however, it would not agree to demilitarize the area agreed upon by the sides for those talks. In addition, the government would stick with its offer to continue the talks abroad in a "friendly country."

The guerrillas initially demanded that the opening talks be held in La Uribe, in the eastern part of the country where, until December, the FARC's general headquarters operated. The FARC demanded that the Army withdraw from the region to "guarantee" the dialogue, but the authorities immediately rejected this request.

Legality of Decree on Drug Traffickers Upheld

PA1003200191 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Report on interview with Supreme Court Vice President Pedro Augusto Escobar Trujillo by J.J. Pinilla; place and date not given]

[Text] [Pinilla] The Supreme Court of Justice has decided that the 1990 State of Siege Decree 30-30 is constitutional. The decree created the mechanisms to get those people who committed drug trafficking crimes to hand themselves over to the Colombian justice system, thus entitling them to receive preferential treatement. Supreme Court Vice President Pedro Augusto Escobar Trujillo explained that the court's decision was based on two reasons: The connection of the decree to the state of siege and non-violation of the Colombian Constitution. The Supreme Court vice president will discuss this topic:

[Begin recording] [Escobar] Basically, the Supreme Court based its decision on two reasons, which are the ones that are always studied for these types of decrees: 1) To learn whether the decree has any connection with the state of siege. This is the first point that is always analyzed; 2) Once that connection is established, then see if its rules are constitutional. In this particular case dealing with the state of siege, both factors—the connection to the decree as well as compliance of the actual wording to constitutional provisions were found to be perfectly in order.

[Pinilla] One of the most controversial points of this decree was the one pertaining to confessions. Did the court rule that this decree violated no law?

[Escobar] That is correct. The court ruled that that the confession specified in Decree 30-30 is a free and spontaneous action. No person is in any way forced to make a confession. Any person who wishes to take advantages of this favorable program simply shows up voluntarily to make a confession and the provisions of the decree would be applied to him.

The court ruled that confession, in this case, is not unconstitutional; that it violates no basic principles specified in the Constitution in regard to guarantees for those who are accused, and so on.

[Pinilla] Why is it that the ruling did not take into account the issue of inequality before the law?

[Escobar] No, the case at hand has nothing to do with inequality before the law. The court [pauses] and this doctrine was established a long time ago, and not in connection with this kind of decree, but in general terms, the principle of equality before the law does not mean that each and every person who inhabits this country must enjoy exactly the same treatment.

This would be impossible, because, for many reasons, many kinds of persons exist. The principle of equality before the law establishes that all persons who are in the same objective situation should receive similar treatment.

[Pinilla] Was the attorney general's opinion taken into account?

[Escobar] Yes, the attorney general also wanted the decree declared constitutional and that is just what the court did. There was no disagreement with his opinion.

[Pinilla] Has the Supreme Court of Justice thus expressed its full support for the justice policy that President Cesar Gaviria has been implementing?

[Escobar] I believe that the court's duty is not to support policies. The court fulfills an eminently juridical duty of analyzing norms within the framework of the constitution. In this specific case, the court ruled that this decree, which was the only one under discussion, is in keeping with the constitution. The court does not analyze policies in general terms. It analyzes a juridical or normative element, in this case, Decree 30-30. [end recording]

[Pinilla] That was Pedro Augusto Escobar Trujillo, vice president of the Supreme Court of Justice, announcing the high court's ruling that State of Siege 30-30 of 1990 is in keeping with the constitution.

Meanwhile, the court regretted that the national government will grant more and better protection to former guerrillas and former criminals than to the servants of the Judicial Branch, such as judges and magistrates. In a dramatic letter sent to President Gaviria, the high court states that it is not possible that one of the branches of the country's public power is at this time facing the neglect of the national government while these Colombian servants are risking their lives day after day.

We are about to have another judicial martyr, which is the case with a magistrate of Medellin's high court, while former guerrillas and former criminals are enjoying excessive protection on the part of the state, the letter signed by court vice president Pedro Escobar adds.

The court also urged the national government to adopt emergency measures to implement mechanisms that would truly protect the lives of magistrates and judges, including sending these servants, who have received threats, to serve in certain posts abroad.

Ecuador

Romanian Premier on Ties With Latin America

PA1103154991 Paris AFP in Spanish 0138 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Quito, 8 Mar (AFP)—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman stated here today that Romania's economic reforms establish mechanisms that are "fully compatible" with Western Europe and the European Community and, at the same time, that will improve its relations with Latin America.

The Romanian head of government arrived in Quito from Santiago de Chile on 7 March. He will continue his Latin American tour and travel to Venezuela on 10 March.

Roman and Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja signed several bilateral cooperation agreements on matters dealing with environment, education, information, commerce, and production at the Ecuadoran Government Palace. They also signed treaties for joint oil and mining programs to be implemented in the future.

Previously, the Ecuadoran-Romanian Commission had resolved to strengthen bilateral cooperation to process and industrialize lumber resources.

At a news conference, Roman stressed that Europe and Latin America are currently "at a period of economic opening and we must take advantage of it." He highlighted his government's economic reforms but admitted that Romania "still cannot compete with the developed economies in the region."

Roman added that the economic reforms in Romania are not different from the ones that were implemented by Poland, Hungary, and Yugoslavia. However, he noted that the reforms in his country are geared toward the control of inflation.

Regarding the results of the Persian Gulf war, the Romanian Head of Government stated that respect for international right had been strengthened, while President Borja called for a new world order to change economic relations and make them "more just and equitable for Third World countries and for the poor people in Africa, Asia, and Latin America."

Roman Ends 3-Day Visit

PA1103172891 Paris AFP in Spanish 2312 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Quito, Mar 10 (AFP)—Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman ended his official three-day visit to Ecuador on 10 March. The visit was part of a Latin American tour that started in Chile and will end in Venezuela.

Ecuadoran Foreign Minister Diego Cordovez saw Roman off in Quito. The prime minister then travelled to the port of Guayaquil, on the Ecuadoran central coast, and from there he left for Venezuela.

During this visit to Ecuador, Roman met twice with Ecuadoran President Rodrigo Borja. He also held meetings with Vice President Luis Parodi, Energy and Mines Minister Diego Tamariz, Congress President Edelberto Bonilla, and Quito businessmen.

The Ecuadoran and Romanian Heads of State signed several mutual assistance agreements to strengthen their economic and political relations and to set the basis for future commercial trade.

Paraguay

BCP President Resigns Over Bonus Payments

PY1103191091 Asuncion RPC Television Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Crispiniano Sandoval, Paraguayan Central Bank [BCP] president, submitted his resignation this morning to President Andres Rodriguez. Speaking to reporters after meeting with President Rodriguez, Sandoval discussed other topics related to his situation.

[Begin recording, in progress] [Sandoval] ...and to submit to the president my resignation as Central Bank president in the face of some problems that have arisen over the retirement bonus payments for resigning bank employees, which I believe are just. These payments have been provided under Central Bank bylaws and are designed to help employees who are leaving the bank. This system was not established recently; it has been in effect since 1956. These payments were made applicable to the members of the BCP Board of Directors in 1968. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] Did you submit your resignation verbally or in writing?

[Sandoval] Well, I did it verbally now, but I will have to confirm it in writing.

[Reporter] Has President Rodriguez accepted your resignation?

[Sandoval] The president said he is going to study it in order to make a decision at the right time. [end recording]

Argentine Minister Visits, Discusses Disarmament

PY0903214091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0438 GMT 8 Mar 91

[Text] Asuncion, 8 Mar (EFE)—Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella, who is here on an official visit, said last night that Argentina wants the Latin American Southern Cone countries to begin discussing the possibility of reaching agreements on disarmament and on other topics bearing on security in the area.

Di Tella confirmed that he discussed the subject of security with his Brazilian counterpart, Francisco Rezek, today in Brasilia, from where he came to Asuncion to meet with his Paraguayan counterpart, Alexis Frutos Vaesken.

In a news conference at the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, Di Tella said: "Because relations among our countries are quite fluid, we are moving closer to the possibility of discussing nuclear and space cooperation and all those subjects dealing with security in the area, particularly disarmament."

Di Tella noted that his country wants the talks on disarmament to include not only Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay—which are promoting the creation of the Southern Cone Common Market, "Mercosur"—but also Chile.

Di Tella also said that the position taken by Argentina at the United Nations on the human rights situation in Cuba has not affected Argentina's relations with the other countries of the Rio Group.

Argentina, which had maintained a joint position with the other Rio Group countries on the Cuban human rights issue, changed its position shortly before the subject was voted on in Geneva on 6 March to decide the UN role in the Cuban case.

At that time, the Argentine delegation supported the U.S. position and thus, by a difference of one vote, made it possible for the United Nations to appoint a special observer to study human rights violations in Cuba.

Di Tella said that the Rio Group countries "have had and may continue to have different positions on any subject, but the main thing is that within the group we understand the reasons behind any position taken by a member country because we do not have to make unanimous decisions all the time."

Di Tella admitted that Argentina had changed its position without first consulting with its "friends" of the Rio Group, because "we have not had enough time to implement a mechanism for doing that."

Asked by EFE about the Brazilian and Paraguayan foreign ministers' reactions to the Argentine vote on the Cuban case during his talks with them, Di Tella said that he believes "they understand, although they do not agree. The subject is quite new and we will discuss it in detail during the next Rio Group meeting."

Di Tella Ends Visit

PY0903235091 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 9 Mar 91 p 10

[Text] Yesterday Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella arrived in our country to hold talks with his Paraguayan counterpart, Alexis Frutos Vaesken. They discussed regional topics such as the Southern Common Market (Mercosur) as well as pending bilateral issues such as border control and the Yacyreta hydroelectric project, among others. Di Tella will leave Paraguay today to continue his tour of the region. Yesterday afternoon Di Tella met with Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez.

After a working meeting with Frutos, Di Tella said that the "Asuncion Treaty," which will create Mercosur, will be highly significant for the region and for Argentine policy. The fact that the signing ceremony will be attended by the four presidents will make the "Asuncion Treaty" comparable to the "Rome Treaty," which created the European Economic Community.

In a news conference at the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry, Di Tella said that Argentina assigns priority to its relations with many regions in the world. He added that Latin America is one of the most important regions for Argentina because it is linked with these countries not only by common interests but also by brotherly ties.

Di Tella added that the integration of countries of the region is now possible in light of the profound changes that have taken place in these states. He added that never before have relations among the countries been so cordial.

Asked about the price of the Argentine oil to be sold to Paraguay, a confusing topic in Argentine-Paraguayan trade relations, Di Tella merely said that through this transaction Paraguay will save transportation costs, taking into account the difference in transportation costs between importing the oil from a neighboring country or from a Mideast country. He said this will result in substantial savings in the cost of oil.

From Di Tella's remarks, it is inferred that lower transportation costs will be one of the few advantages our country will have by purchasing Argentine oil, and that we will not be specifically paying less for the Formosa oil. He noted that transportation costs have a major bearing on the final price of oil. Emphasizing the advantages Paraguay will obtain from buying Argentine oil, Di Tella said: "The benefit will not be just that, but rather the advantage will be at least that much."

Asked if Argentina will be willing to purchase surplus "fuel oil" from Paraguay, Di Tella said that the respective Argentine and Paraguayan companies are holding talks to reach an agreement on this topic, which has raised concern in Paraguay. He added that the agreement signed by the two countries on this subject is being complied with. Thus, he avoided answering the key question regarding the price at which the Formosa oil will be sold to Paraguay.

Commenting on the implementation of the Argentine-Paraguayan energy agreement, Di Tella said that the integration of countries in the region will be possible through the integration of key sectors of the economy, such as the energy sector. He said: "We are making significant progress toward integrating what could become an electricity market."

Peru

Lima: Report on Terrorism, State of Emergency

PY1103185391 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0141 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Lima, 9 Mar (EFE)—The official gazette, EL PERUANO, today reported that, to escape forcible recruitment by Peruvian subversive groups, young Peruvians have gone as far as dropping out of school and fleeing to safer areas in the country.

The Peruvian Government today declared a state of emergency in nine provinces of two departments as a result of the pressure being exerted by subversive groups. Thus, nearly 70 percent of the 22 million Peruvians now live under a state of emergency.

EL PERUANO quotes students between 15 to 20 years of age "who have quit school and their studies" to avoid being kidnapped by rebel groups.

Students from Apurimac Department, which has been under a state of emergency for several years, have said that they had to run away from their homes to escape recruitment by the Maoist Shining Path group.

There are no government officials in some areas of Apurimac because they were either forced to flee or were murdered by Shining Path members.

Student Henry Lezama said that in Aymaraes Province, Apurimac Department, "schools were normally operating up until a few years ago when terrorists began forcibly entering schools, destroying their facilities and kidnapping many young people to make them join the terrorist ranks."

Shining Path terrorists usually force these young people, often unarmed, to join them in their attacks on small townships and in ambushes or attacks on police stations in the Peruvian Andean mountain region.

These actions have led Peruvian officials to extend the zones of emergency. The Defense Ministry today announced that nine more provinces have been placed under a state of emergency: four provinces in Cusco Department, for 60 days; and five provinces in Ica Department, for 30 days. This means that the entire Ica Department is now under a state of emergency.

The state of emergency is justified on the grounds that it is needed "to facilitate the coordination of counter subversive activities in the national territory" against the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA).

The state of emergency shifts the responsibility for maintaining order to the military forces and suspends individual freedoms.

More than 21,000 people have died since political violence erupted in Peru in May 1980. The damage caused by terrorist attacks during this period stands at $19 billion.

According to the most recent report released by a congressional committee studying the causes and effects of subversion in the country, approximately 2,000 people have died since the inauguration of President Alberto Fujimori more than seven months ago.

Coca Planters Want Say in Anti-Drug Agreement

PY1103194591 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0041 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Text] Lima, 10 Mar (EFE)—Representatives of 200,000 peasants who are involved in coca cultivation today asked the government to let them participate in the anti-drug negotiations between Peru and the United States.

Juan Rojas, secretary general of the Peasants Confederation of Peru (CCP), told the press that coca farmers cannot be denied the opportunity to participate in the negotiation of a coca substitution agreement that might eventually be signed.

Rojas affirmed that Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori should prove that he does indeed favor popular participation in government decisions by consulting with coca farmers before signing an agreement with the United States.

The CCP secretary general affirmed that the coca farmers will call a three-day national stoppage, from 21 to 23 March, to support their protest if they are not allowed to participate in the talks.

He added that the coca farmers want to discuss with government officials the terms of an anti-drug agreement with the United States that is "satisfactory for both sides."

According to Rojas, the coca farmers representatives will deliver to President Fujimori on 12 March a 17-point petition in which they explain their opposition to signing, without previous consultation, an agreement that stipulates the substitution of coca by alternative crops.

One proposal, which Rojas failed to expound, involves eliminating the use of coca leaves for cocaine production.

Former CCP President Andres Luna noted that coca leaves are currently used exclusively for producing cocaine, while the production of at least 13 beneficial derivatives has been forgotten.

Juan Rojas said that the proposed agreement "has many obscure aspects" which "could foreshadow the mistreatment of peasants and disregard for their rights."

U.S. Ambassador to Peru Anthony Quainton said on 2 March that his government accepts and supports President Fujimori's desire for a comprehensive anti-drug plan. He added that the agreement which has been in the negotiation stage for several months will be signed "soon," once the new Peruvian proposal has been considered.

Ambassador Quainton then said that the document, which is being written, will be signed "in the next few weeks."

The U.S. diplomat observed that the agreement "does not prioritize the military effort" in the anti-drug struggle in Peru, and recognizes the need to subsidize coca with other profitable crops whose sale in the U.S. and other markets will be guaranteed.

European Economic Community Opens Lima Office

PY1103181091 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0025 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Lima, 9 Mar (EFE)—The EEC established an office in Lima this week to handle that organization's interests in Peru and Bolivia, two Andean Group nations. A communique from the EEC reported the opening of the office, which will be managed by Italy's Sabato Della Monica, who will have the rank of ambassador.

The communique says the decision to open that office responds to the EEC's interest in Peru and the priority being given relations with Latin America. The EEC now has offices in Brasilia, Mexico, San Jose (Costa Rica), Santiago (Chile), and Montevideo. It will soon open an office in Buenos Aires.

The Lima office will promote activities of cooperation and solidarity with Peru in fighting such problems as drug trafficking and the cholera epidemic now affecting the country.

Japanese Government Provides $27 Million Grant

PY0903205691 Lima RTP Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Mar 91

[Text] Today the Japanese Government formally donated $27 million to support Peru's efforts toward the structural adjustment of its economy and to alleviate the economic difficulties caused by the payment of its foreign debt.

This donation is in line with the special financial cooperation program the Japanese have recently instituted to help developing countries in particular.

Uruguay

Brazilian President Arrives, Meets Lacalle

PY1103184091 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Uruguayan President Luis Alberto Lacalle and his Brazilian counterpart Fernando Collor are carrying out an in-depth analysis of the integration process within the framework of the presidential meetings in Artigas and Quarai. This is the last meeting that the two presidents will hold before the signing of the Mercosur [Southern Cone Common Market] treaty on 26 March in Asuncion. We have a report by El Espectador correspondent Alberto Facal from Artigas:

The two presidents are now having lunch in the Uruguayan city of Artigas. The Brazilian president arrived at the Artigas airport at 1130 this morning. [passage omitted]

Venezuela

Military Operations Ongoing in Border Region

PA1003150691 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1346 GMT 10 Mar 91

[Text] Caracas, 10 Mar (DPA)—It was reported in Caracas today that Venezuelan military forces are carrying out intense operations in an area on the border with Colombia after suspected Colombian guerrillas killed two members of the Venezuelan National Guard on 9 March.

Venezuelan military authorities in San Cristobal indicated that the two guardsmen were killed by two suspected Colombian guerrillas on Saturday on the banks of the Arauca River, which serves as the border between southwestern Apure State and Colombia.

The attack comes only one week after suspected Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrillas killed five Brazilian soldiers in an incursion into Brazil.

According to General Jesus Rafael Caballero, head of Regional Command No.1, two individuals from Colombia crossed the Arauca River and attacked the Venezuelan military post at La Victoria with small arms from a short distance.

The FARC attack in Brazil led to high-level diplomatic consultations between both countries. The border between Venezuela and Colombia has been the site of repeated clashes between Colombian guerrillas and Venezuelan security forces in the past few years.

Border security will be one of the topics that Colombian President Cesar Gaviria and Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez will discuss in the meeting they wil hold in Caracas on 14-15 March.